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House PUTC Committee to subpoena CUC's bank statement. **PAGE 2**

New program exposes students to health topics, issues. **PAGE 3**



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\$7.9M tax lien filed vs IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **IPI files suit vs CCC**

The CNMI government has filed another federal tax lien against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, stating that IPI owes the CNMI over \$7.9 million in taxes dating back to 2017.

See \$7.9M on Page 4

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan is seen here in this file photo.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

More discussions sought on bill to write off CUC's debt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Further movement on a House bill that seeks to write off the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt with the erstwhile Commonwealth Development Authority has stalled after a House



Attao



Bradley

committee that's looking into the measure decided to table the bill pending future discussions.

This comes soon after House of Representatives legal counsel John Bradley pointed out that

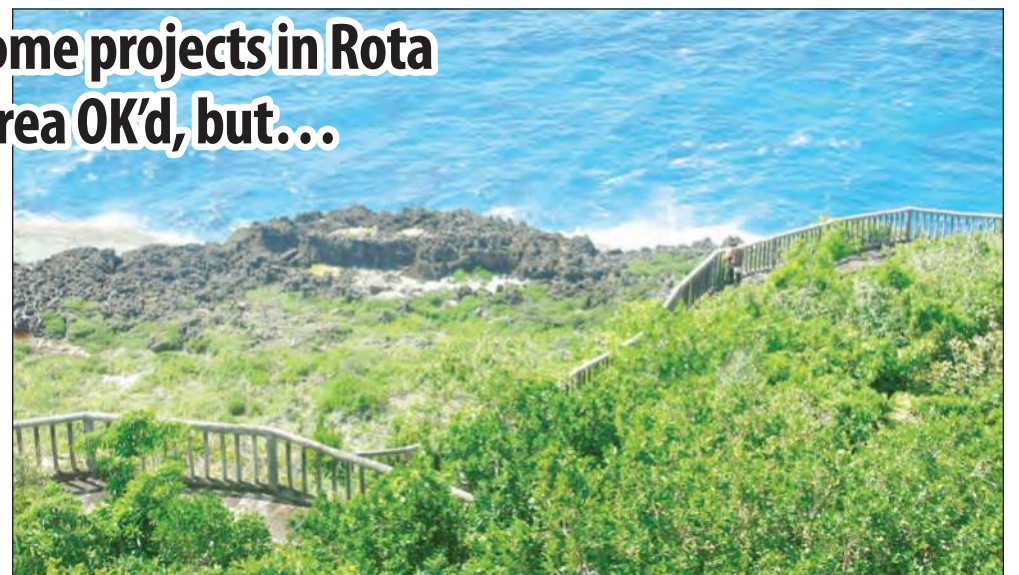
CDA, now known as the
See MORE on Page 4

Law to allow some projects in Rota conservation area OK'd, but...

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into law a Senate local bill that would allow certain municipal projects within a conservation area on Rota, including a planned expansion of the Department of Public Safety's Rota Shooting Range. The bill is now Rota Local Law 23-07.

Palacios, however, noted
See LAW on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

File photo of the Bird Sanctuary on Rota.

Barcinas overrules opposition to his appointment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Judge *pro tem* Arthur Barcinas has overruled assistant attorney general

James Kingman's objection to his appointment to preside over the new contempt suit filed against former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Barcinas' order yesterday

said there was no legal basis for Kingman's objection to his appointment.

"There being no legal basis for the objection, and the court not being otherwise disqual-



Kingman



Torres

ified by statute or the judicial code of conduct, the court hereby overrules the Commonwealth's objection," said Barcinas.

Kingman had argued that this case is the fourth one assigned to Barcinas regarding

the same events and that one of the four cases is a civil case where Torres is challenging the Commonwealth's contract with Kingman.

"Cases involving the same issues of fact and law should

See BARCINAS on Page 4

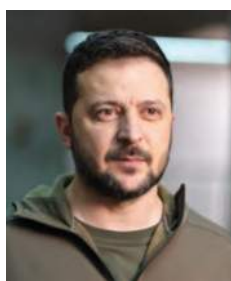
INSIDE



NATION

President Joe Biden hosted a Hanukkah reception at the White House and vowed to continue to stand with Israel in its war with Hamas.

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WORLD

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned in a speech at that Russia may be fighting in Ukraine but its "real target is freedom" in America and around the world.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" dominated the Golden Globe Awards nominations with nine nods for the blockbuster film.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee chair Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) presides over a committee meeting yesterday.

Local

House PUTC Committee to subpoena CUC bank statement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications agreed yesterday to issue a subpoena to compel the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to submit its financial bank statement.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan), will issue the subpoena if CUC can't submit the requested documents by the deadline today, Wednesday.

Aldan said the committee had asked acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje to submit the financial statement from Bank of Guam and that CUC asked for a 10-day extension and they gave it more than 10 days.

Aldan said today, Wednesday, is CUC's final day to submit the bank statement.

Before voting on a motion to issue a subpoena, Aldan clarified that what they're talking about is the actual bank account statement from BOG itself and not CUC's financial record keeping and spreadsheet "or any of that."

He said the reason for that is because they want to know if CUC has complied with the court's Stipulated Order No. 1 to ensure that they have a separate account for emergency, a separate account for maintenance and operations, and separate accounts for their general funds and security deposit.

"They all cannot be commingled," said Aldan, adding

that that's the committee is trying to find out where CUC stands financially.

In order to do that, he said, they need the actual bank account, the bank account number with the name or description of that bank account to ensure that it is separated, in accordance with Stipulated Order No. 1.

Stipulated Order No. 1 refers to CUC projects mandated by the U.S. District Court for the NMI that focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

In response to Rep. Marissa Renee Flores' (D-Saipan) question, House legal counsel John Bradley said there is no conflict if the committee will vote that day (Tuesday) to issue a subpoena—one day before the extension deadline.

Bradley said the committee has the authority to consider and to vote whether or not to issue a subpoena, regardless of some future act.

"Obviously I'm assuming that the chairman, if the vote is approved, will wait until and see whether the documents arrive tomorrow. And then if they do not, consider issuing the subpoena after that," Aldan said.

All six committee members present at the meeting voted "yes" to issue the subpoena. They were Aldan, and Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan).

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

5.7-magnitude earthquake in Pagan

At 12:11am on Dec. 11, 2023, a report of a 5.7-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Pagan region, NMI. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

5.0-magnitude quake in Maug

At 4:34pm on Nov. 27, 2023, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Maug Islands region, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damages and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Accepting
Entries Now!

Hafa Adai!
Saipan
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What I Wish for Christmas Drawing Contest

OPEN TO KIDS AGES 6 TO 12

Deadline of Submission:
December 19, 2023

Dimensions:
8.5in x 11in to 11in x 17in

Mediums:
Watercolor, Poster Color, Acrylic,
Crayons & Color Pencils.
No computer generated artwork allowed.

Draw what you
wish for Christmas
and tell us why.
Add a short description in your
drawing as to what is your
Christmas wish and why.

Artworks must be
original and must be
Christmas themed.
Winners will
get special gifts!

Please submit entries to
Saipan Tribune

JP Center, Beach Road Garapan
M-F at 8am - 6:00pm.

For more information, please email
sales@saipantribune.com
or call (670) 235-2440 and look for Christine.



New program exposes students to health topics, issues

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Division of Youth Services' Youth Empowerment Action for Health program concluded on Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, where 11 participants from middle and high schools across Saipan were recognized as part of the initiative's newest cohort.

As part of the ceremony, participants had a chance to share what they've learned while being a part of the cohort, and shared the knowledge they have acquired. Their topics spanned from non-communicable disease, mental health, suicide, and food addiction, to drug and alcohol misuse and awareness.

YEAH facilitator Eloise Lopez said the program actually got started in September, and was done for over two months, providing participants with work experiences and interactions with not only peers but also local health workers.

It also gave participants creative space to design a health campaign of their own that is especially catered to teens and young adults, as well as socialize with others, get free training and networking opportunities, and improve their communication, she said.

"These are not your typical kind of students. ... They are here today to show you that not only are they here to present, but to give you a learning experience of what they learned throughout the program and use this as a potential gateway to keep advocating for health to, and for, their communities," Lopez



said. "These students will not end from here. Right after this program, they will continue to work furthermore on their health project and... present to their communities."

One participant from Kagman High School, Nicole Sundiam, said the program

was a good opportunity "because it causes you to get out of your comfort zone and meet new people while learning about different non-communicable diseases in the CNMI and in the U.S., and gives you a new perspective on things."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Siblings Nicole and Cee Jay Sundiam, both participants of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Division of Youth Services' Youth Empowerment Action for Health program, share about the dangers of breast cancer at the program's concluding ceremony last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Garapan.

She would encourage others to participate in the program.

She and her brother, Cee Jay, a participant from Chacha Oceanview Middle School, chose to give a presentation on one of the CNMI's top cancers, breast cancer.

"I think it's often overlooked," she said.

The topic also meant more to her on a personal level. "I felt like I was also advocating for my aunt, because she's also a breast cancer survivor, so this felt good to do this."

The program was a collaborative effort between CHCC and DYS, but also included the support and cooperation of Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, and Marianas Health.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 498-8899.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2024

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,550,603.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$980,125.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$489,268.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$81,210.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2024.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; NMC Campus Bldg. A, San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Sinapalo III Village, Rota, beginning December 13, 2023.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled "Community Planning Development (CDBG)"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); NMC Bldg. A, San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Sinapalo III Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 13, 2024, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 13, 2024, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 14, 2024, 5:30 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 15, 2024, 5:30 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 16, 2024 5:30 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office at the NMC Campus, Building A; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, such as eligibility criteria and program requirements, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 233-0076

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 9, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"REPLACEMENT OF THE AIRCONDITIONING UNIT SYSTEM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH) ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR, CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRPERSON, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Election of Officers
 - E. Adoption of Minutes
 1. December 14, 2022
 2. January 6, 2023
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 1. Administrative & Personnel
 - a. Deliberation & Board action on Comptroller's position
 - b. Deliberation & Board action on CEDA FY 2024 Budget
 - B. Financial Matters
 1. Financial Statements for FY 2023
 - C. Loan & Legal Matters
 1. Deliberation & Board action on Island Development Corporation
 2. Deliberation & Board action on Roman Matsumoto Qualifying Certificate/Economic Development Activities
 1. Programs' Update
 - IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ JOCELYN T. KING
Acting Chairperson

Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 16

Christmas in the Marianas continues on Dec. 16 and 30, 2023, at T Galleria, Saipan. The schedule of events on Dec. 16 includes The Marianas Experience (3pm), a Christmas Costume Catwalk (5:30pm), and holiday skits by local high schools: Saipan International School (6:30pm), Agape Christian School (6:45pm) Mount Carmel School (7pm), Grace Christian Academy (7:15pm), and Marianas High School (7:30pm). Awards for the best decorated Christmas Tree will be made at 8pm. The Marianas Experience will resume until closing at 9pm. Food and drinks are available for purchase. (MVA)

Dry weather persists for the Marianas

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service in Guam expects dry weather to persist across the Marianas throughout the rest

of the week.

According to NWS' weekly regional weather outlook, the ongoing dry pattern seen in the past few days will persist across the Marianas through the weekend.

However, the Marianas can still expect spotty, passing showers in the next few days, with winds becoming breezy by midweek.

NWS forecasts that seas and surf will increase by Thursday,

possibly with a high risk of rip currents along eastern reefs and exposures.

Meanwhile for Palau and Yap, fair weather will persist through Thursday morning before a tropical disturbance,

Invest 91W, approaches the region, bringing more showers, gustier winds, and higher seas and surf Thursday evening through Friday.

A drier trade wind pattern will resume early next week.

Farther east for Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Majuro, Invest 91W sits southwest of Chuuk, while another area of disturbed weather sits over the southern Marshall Islands and areas eastward.

"Expect a showery pattern near these disturbances the next couple of days, with Invest 91W shifting slowly westward while the disturbance near the Marshall Islands sits nearly stationary. Trade winds will continue to surge across

much of the region this week, possibly becoming fresh to strong across the Marshall Islands. Advisories are in effect for hazardous seas and surf near Majuro, and could extend to other locations this week," said NWS.

Tropical disturbance Invest 91W is currently centered southwest of Chuuk, drifting slowly westward.

The system is currently rated as "sub-low" by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center and 91W is not expected to significantly develop in the next day or two.

However, some models favor gradual development as it tracks toward Palau later this week.

MORE

From page 1

Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, believes that there is no longer any loan debt. He said he learned this from CEDA itself.

"It doesn't exist because they settled," he said, referring to the CDA-CUC settlement.

House Bill 23-52 which the House of Representatives Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee was looking at, seeks to impose a settlement on that CUC debt by writing it off.

Bradley said, however, that that debt doesn't exist anymore

as CEDA very expressly stated.

"So even if you pass this bill, as it's written, it would not accomplish what you want. It would be simply eliminating a debt that doesn't exist," he pointed out.

He said the bill essentially would do nothing because the debt was resolved by converting it to shares in CUC, which Bradley thinks is a "very odd" arrangement. Bradley stated at the hearing that such an arrangement raises other legal issues that they don't need to discuss that day.

It was Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) who asked Bradley to chime in on the 2004 CUC-CDA settle-

ment because the lawyer was part of the previous PUTC's conversation with CEDA in regards to ownership of CUC dividends.

The CDA-CUC settlement arose during discussions on H.B. 23-52.

The PUTC chaired by Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) agreed to table H.B. 23-52 after Attao suggested that they should hold off on the legislation right now so they can have a meeting with CEDA, CUC, and even the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., plus a central government representative.

With CUC's loan converted into shares that are now held by

CEDA, that means CEDA now has an ownership stake in CUC and is receiving dividends.

If the PUTC and the House as a whole is interested in how to address the shortage of payments to CUC by various government agencies, the money is no longer sitting as a loan. He said the money is streaming as paid dividends from CUC to CEDA and some of that money has already been distributed in various ways.

"One of them was to send some money over to help with the NMC [Northern Marianas College] and other important projects. So that's where the money is if you're looking for it," Bradley said.

LAW

From page 1

three concerns about the future implementation of the bill.

For one, the installation of a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Rota Emergency Repeater System is not an exclusive Rota municipal project as it has a CNMI-wide impact. Also, he said there are Commonwealth-wide laws and regulations that may further restrict project activities in these conservation areas.

Palacios recently informed Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan)

that the bill proposes to allow several projects at Sabana Heights, Talakhaya, and I Chenchon Park.

The projects include installation of the DFEMS Emergency Repeater System, a coffee project, and an organic farming project.

Palacios said a Commonwealth law allowing the DFEMS Rota Emergency Repeater System would supersede the installation of the system within the locally-created conservation area.

Secondly, in addition to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' authority to develop mitigating plans that would allow the development, there are Commonwealth-wide laws and regulations that may further

restrict project activities, Palacios said.

Thirdly, the coffee and organic farming projects are not described in sufficient details, which may create disputes over their size and scope.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) introduced the legislation last Aug. 10. The Rota Legislative Delegation passed the bill last Oct. 23.

Manglona stated in the bill that 16 years after the passage of Rota Local Law 9-01 in 1994, the restrictions provided in the law is too restrictive and strangles any important and necessary municipal projects.

He said although the conservation area is important and the protection of the aquifer is equally important, the delegation finds it important

to allow carefully-planned projects to minimize the impact on the conservation area and the aquifer.

Under the legislation, the DLNR secretary, the Fish and Wildlife director, and the Rota resident director of the DLNR shall develop plans and procedures to minimize the impacts on the plants, wildlife, soil, rocks, landscape, and the aquifer, to allow the development of the municipal projects within the conservation area.

The projects are installation of the DFEMS-Rota Emergency Repeater System, DPS-Rota Shooting Range expansion and Improvement, Mayor of Rota Freedom is Nature 360 Trail and Overlook, a coffee project, and organic farming.

\$7.9M

From page 1

The CNMI Division of Tax and Revenue filed yesterday another federal tax lien against IPI alleging that the casino investor owes the CNMI approximately \$7,943,060.39 in unpaid Business Gross Revenue taxes from December 2017 to December 2021.

Back in August 2020, the division's collections manager, Richard Santos, filed a tax lien against IPI in federal court for allegedly failing to pay \$9,416,887 in BGRT for the tax period from 2017 to 2019.

In related news, IPI has filed its own federal suit against the Commonwealth Casino Commission, alleging breach of the Casino License Agreement or CLA.

IPI, through attorneys Stephen Nutting and Michael Chen, is accusing CCC of un-

constitutional impairment of contract and violation of the contracts clause of the U.S. and CNMI constitutions. IPI is also alleging violation of the takings clause, and violation of the due process clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

As relief, IPI is demanding a jury trial and declaration stating that IPI is exempt from or not subject to the terms of the regulatory fee because of the terms of the CLA entered into by IPI and CNMI prior to the enactment of the annual regulatory fee statute.

IPI also wants the court to issue an injunction against CCC, preventing the enforcement of the regulatory fee statute and collection of the annual regulatory fee against IPI, or mandating that CCC exempt IPI from the annual regulatory fee.

In addition, IPI requested the court to issue a declaration stating that the regulatory fee

statute, as applied to IPI, is unconstitutional.

IPI also wants the court to order CCC to pay restitution for all the regulatory fees that IPI had paid in the past.

Moreover, IPI is asking for a court order directing CCC to vacate, nullify any and all adverse administrative decisions against IPI that were based upon the annual regulatory fee statute, including the imposition of fees, interests and penalties for failure to pay the annual regulatory fees; as well as the suspension of its license based upon the annual regulatory fee statute.

According to the complaint, the CNMI and IPI had an existing contractual relationship that provides IPI with certain contractual and property rights to operate a casino in the CNMI in exchange for substantial compensation to the CNMI.

IPI alleges that, acting under the color of Commonwealth

law, the CCC, as an agency of CNMI, substantially deprived IPI of its contract rights, in violation of the U.S. and Commonwealth constitutions, the lawsuit stated.

"The Regulatory Fee Statute imposed additional fees for doing business in CNMI, which constitutes a substantial and unconstitutional impairment of the CLA. IPI was and is still required by CCC to pay the \$3 million annual regulatory fee as a prerequisite to exercising its existing contractual and property rights set forth explicitly in the CLA, rights for which it already has compensated the Commonwealth," the lawsuit stated.

In essence, IPI says CCC is double-charging IPI.

IPI also claims that the actions of the CNMI in enacting and CCC in implementing the annual regulatory fee were and are arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable.

BARCINAS

From page 1

not be decided with different standards or at different levels in different proceedings in front of the same decider," the objection states.

Barcinas says Kingman offers no statute, case law, or other legal precedent to substantiate any of these arguments.

"The court is bound by the procedures which appointed it to this and other related cases, and...Kingman's objection, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court, is otherwise silent as to any other procedures. Per statute, the court's appointment may only be undone by self-recusal or a motion for disqualification, which...Kingman has not filed, and self-recusal is appropriate only if the court finds there are statutory grounds for its disqualification, of which there are none. Therefore, while the court notes the Commonwealth's objection to its appointment in this case, any actionable argument for the court's disqualification must be properly brought through motion and based on valid grounds for disqualification," said Barcinas.

Last month, the Office of the Attorney General, through Kingman, filed a new lawsuit against Torres in Superior Court charging him with contempt over his failure to comply with a legislative subpoena last December 2021.

Aside from contempt, Kingman also charged Torres with misconduct in public office for failing to appear in compliance with the legislative subpoena.

This was not the first time the OAG filed a contempt suit against Torres, but that initial charge was dismissed in August 2022.

Judge *pro tem* Alberto Tolentino's order granted, in part, and denied, in part, Torres' motion for the withdrawal or disqualification of the OAG as a prosecutor.

It was in this order that the judge dismissed the contempt charge against Torres.

ity, particularly in light of the interruptions to the court's operations due to Typhoon Mawar, the severe increase in the court's backlog resulting therefrom, interim changes to the court's staff, the complexities of inheriting a case midway through its proceedings, and the various complications incidental to defendant's challenging...Kingman's ability to practice pro hac vice in the Commonwealth. The court's deliberation in this case is a matter of circumstance, and not, as...Kingman seems to imply, an inherent quality of the court affecting all proceedings, and Kingman has no basis of comparison for the pace of these proceedings as he has only ever appeared before this particular court for this particular nexus of events. Indeed, were...Kingman to bring this objection before any other judge or justice within the NMI Judiciary, it might be construed as frivolous. In the event that the court tends toward longer periods of deliberation, it lies within the court's discretion to do so, and the court will continue to diligently discharge its duties," said Barcinas.

Last month, the Office of the Attorney General, through Kingman, filed a new lawsuit against Torres in Superior Court charging him with contempt over his failure to comply with a legislative subpoena last December 2021.

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MCS senior Xin Wen Jin is QuestBridge scholar

Mount Carmel School announced yesterday that 12th-grader Xin Wen Jin is a QuestBridge Scholar matched to Boston College.

According to their website, QuestBridge “is a national nonprofit that connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with leading institutions of higher education and further life opportunities. By recruiting, developing, and motivating these students. ... QuestBridge aims to help talented students attend the nation’s best colleges and to support them to achieve success in their respective careers and communities.”

Out of 20,800 applicants, 2,242 students were selected as finalists and ultimately QuestBridge Scholars—the highest number of recipients in a single cycle to date. Xin is among a few other student scholars also selected from the Northern Mariana Islands. As scholars,

these students will be awarded a full four-year scholarship worth approximately \$200,000.

“I did not imagine I would be selected as a finalist. Nonetheless, I am thankful to all my teachers, friends, and family who supported me throughout these many months to get to this point. I am especially

thankful to our school counselor for guiding me every step of the way,” Xin said.

MCS school counselor Tobed Smith, who was instrumental to the application process, said, “It is always fulfilling to see the grit and passion of our students recognized and awarded in such

a way. Every year, our seniors always demonstrate a willingness to exceed everyone’s expectations. It is why I continue coming to work everyday—the success of our students.”

School principal Filmah Buenaflor said, “Xin’s monumental achievement is a testament to his dedication



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School student Xin Wen Jin is a QuestBridge Scholar matched to Boston College.

to living the school’s mission of a holistic education rooted in faith and excellence. We are tremendously proud of Xin and cannot wait to see what other feats he achieves after graduation.”

A Mount Carmel School news release said it is grateful to the QuestBridge organiza-

tion for their outstanding work in uplifting the youth of underserved communities.

“Mount Carmel School encourages all her students to seek opportunities to showcase their intellectual prowess such as the QuestBridge College Match Scholarship,” it added. (PR)

CNMI DOL offices to close early for staff development

The CNMI Department of Labor has announced its offices will close at 12pm on Thursday, Dec. 15, to allow staff to attend an agency-wide professional development seminar. Operations are scheduled to resume on Monday, Dec. 18.

The event, titled “Data Dialogue,” will provide training for DOL staff on interpreting statistics, engaging community stakeholders, and facilitating solutions-oriented conversations. Attendees will learn data visualization techniques and strategies for presenting insights in easily understandable ways.



Staffler

“We want to equip our staff with the tools not just to look at data, but to really explore what it means and how it can drive meaningful action,” said Labor Secretary Leila Staffler. “Engaging with information in creative, thoughtful ways will help strengthen our outreach and public service.”

DOL leadership believes sessions like Data Dialogue raise organizational competency and offer professional growth opportunities essential to recruiting and retaining talented labor department personnel.

The agency regrets any inconvenience caused by the early closure and appreciates the public’s understanding as we invest in our employees. (CNMI DOL)



‘REST ASSURED, IT’S CHRISTMAS’

Art by Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr/Sr High School student Erianne Ladao from the Pacifica Insurance Underwriters 10th Annual Pacifica Art Contest held in October this year. This year’s theme: Rest assured, it’s Christmas. Check out Pacifica’s new online art exhibition THE PAC GALLERY on www.pacificains.com/artcontest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
mail: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: www.nmhc.gov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)

December 13, 2023

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2023 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2023. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, on or before December 29, 2023. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available on NMHC’s website at www.nmhc.gov.net and at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/9447 during regular business hours.

/s/

Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/CGC-CORS 988 PROGRAM-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JAN. 5TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)


OFFICE LEASE

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY


CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Wednesday, December 13, 2023

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRPERSON HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Election of Officers
 - E. Adoption of Minutes – December 14, 2022
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **REPORTS**
 - A. DCD Financial Status
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Loan Matters
 1. Daniel & Remedio Buniag
 2. Corrine Cing
 3. Micronesia Products
 4. Don Farrell
 5. Eagle Construction Corporation
 6. Francine & Jerad Atalig
 7. Maxine & Christine Pangelinan
 8. Mateo Santos
- V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

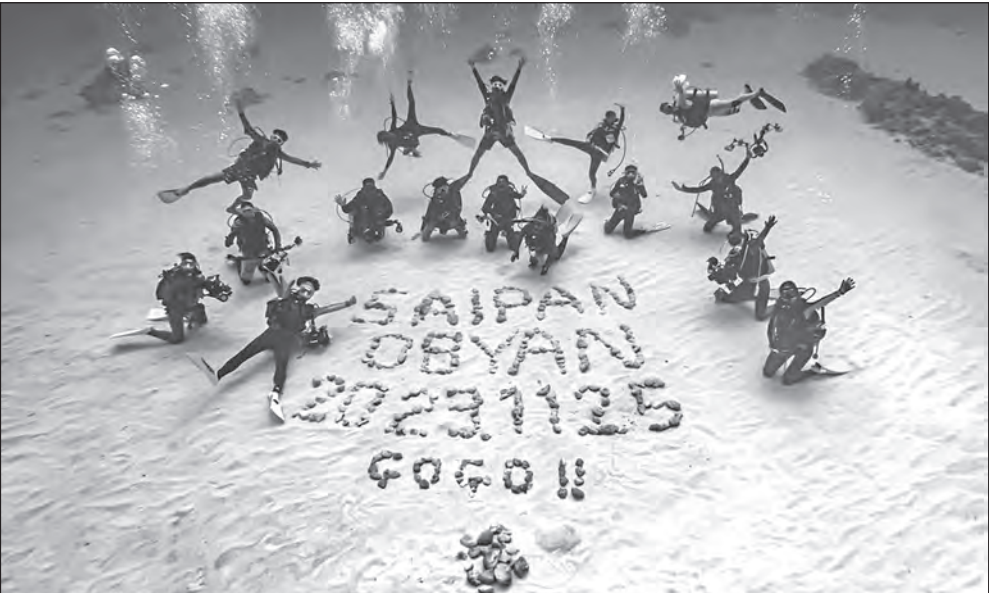
/s/ JOCELYN T. KING
Acting Chairperson



MVA
Ten divers from Japan participate in a critique session at Casa Urashima on Saipan last November 2023 as part of a underwater photography seminar organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Marine Diving Web.



MVA
Participants in the Marianas Diving Promotion underwater photography seminar take a commemorative photo at Laulau Beach on Saipan on Nov. 25, 2023.



MVA
Participants in the Marianas Diving Promotion underwater photography seminar take a commemorative photo at Obyan Beach on Saipan last Nov. 25, 2023.

MVA woos Japanese divers with photography seminar publicity

The Marianas Visitors Authority is creating a media splash with the results of an underwater photography seminar recently held in the Marianas.

In collaboration with renowned diving photographer Sachi Murai of Japan and Marine Diving Web (marine-diving.com) online magazine, the MVA hosted the seminar last month with 10 divers who had never visited the Marianas before. Prior to the event, Marine Diving Web published a series of articles with photos to promote the Marianas as the ideal destination for first overseas diving from Japan due to the islands' proximity, clear waters, comfortable water temperature, and no language barriers owing to numerous Japanese diving guides available.

"The seminar and resulting media coverage aim to attract more first-time overseas divers with stunning photography and enticing stories, as the Marianas is the perfect destination for a first overseas dive trip," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands together offer a tremendous selection of beach, boat, and marine life encounter dives, perfect for even new divers."

The seminar was held at two of the most popular dive sites on Saipan: LauLau Beach and Obyan Beach. Eight articles have been published on Marine Diving Web, with one more planned for this month. The articles are also being promoted via social media channels and advertising banners on the site. In addition, more than 300 social networking posts have been made by the participants on their personal accounts, sharing their experience on Saipan.

"Sachi Murai was an ideal photographer to host this seminar. He loves the ocean and is very familiar with our Marianas waters, having dived here many times, brought divers here on dive trips, and contributed to various articles about diving in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Concepcion. "We also thank our local dive operators for lending their support to the huge success of the seminar: Anclah Saipan, Aqua Gate Saipan, Make Sure Diving, Sakura Marine and Selfish Saipan."

Marine Diving Web has 1,250,000 unique users. (MVA)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

IBISOKU SAIPAN LLC

PMB 208 BOX 10000 SAIPAN, MP 96950

The limited liability company under the name of Ibisoku Saipan LLC is filing this Notice of Dissolution effective December 13, 2023.

The Ibisoku Saipan LLC has been in business and has been gratified to contribute to CNMI's development. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments from the past year. Unfortunately, due to the current financial difficulties, the running of Ibisoku Saipan LLC has been difficult, like the rest of the companies in the CNMI. Due to this situation, we regret to shut down our company.

On this date of December 13, 2023, the company is winding up the disclosure of the Ibisoku Saipan LLC.

/s/ Makoto Mori
Member/Manager



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP24-CHCC/WIC-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JAN. 05TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - BANGLADESHI INTERPRETER

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB NO.: 42400014

SUBMISSION DATE: January 12, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Marine Beach Restroom and Replacement of Existing Damage Concrete Picnic Tables Five (5) and Barbeque Pits Five (5)."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.



The project package will be available on or after **December 13, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 29, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site at Marine Beach**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 05, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
Tel: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality regulates the emissions of motor vehicles utilizing diesel fuel while upon streets, roads, or highways. In accordance with NMIAC § 65-10-104 (b), "No person shall operate a diesel-powered motor vehicle which emits visible smoke for a period of more than five seconds while upon streets, roads, or highways."

In accordance with NMIAC § 65-10-104 (b) (1), "To ensure compliance with subsection (b), BECQ requires diesel-powered vehicles to be certified by DEQ through visible emission testing." This applies to all personal, business, and government owned vehicles.

To apply for a visible emission test, submit a completed application to any BECQ office. A fee of \$40 shall be assessed upon passing and issuance of a visible emissions certification. If initial testing is failed, retesting shall be performed no later than thirty (30) calendar days; each retest will be assessed an additional fee of \$10.

For more information and for application forms, please contact BECQ at 664-8500 or visit the BECQ website at www.deq.gov.mp

18th BOE Regular Board Meeting on Rota



The policymaking and governing body of the school district, the Board of Education, held its regular board meeting last Monday at Sinapalo Elementary School cafeteria on Rota. In this photo, interim commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores, right, provides updates to the board members, composed of chair Antonio L. Borja, vice chair Herman Atalig, secretary/treasurer Gregory Pat Borja, board members Andrew L. Orsini and Maisie B. Tenorio, teacher representative Dr. Dora B. Miura, and student representative Jane Nicole Mozunder. The Rota meeting is part of BOE's rotational meetings alternately held on all three islands.



At the cafeteria of Sinapalo Elementary School, the Board of Education, left, held its meetings, and was attended by the key management team of the Public School System, among others.



BOE chair Antonio L. Borja, BOE vice chair Herman Atalig, BOE member Andrew L. Orsini, and student representative Jane Nicole Mozunder.



Behind interim commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores is her key management team that includes associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che, Human Resources officer Lucretia B. Deleon Guerrero, and Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama during the Board of Education meeting on Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School cafeteria.



Chair Antonio L. Borja stresses a point, as teacher chair Dr. Dora B. Miura and board member Maisie B. Tenorio listen.



BOE chair Antonio L. Borja and vice chair Herman Atalig in last Monday's BOE meeting on Rota.



Board member Andrew L. Orsini speaks while secretary/treasurer Gregory Pat Borja and vice chair Herman Atalig listen.



Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che, Human Resources officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, and Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama listen intently during Monday's regular BOE meeting.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Pakistan is creating the world's next refugee crisis

Amid wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, Western governments have limited capacity to deal with another humanitarian crisis. Yet a decision by Pakistan to expel hundreds of thousands of Afghans threatens to create a new wave of refugees and destabilize an already volatile region. Preventing the chaos from spreading needs to be a priority for the U.S. and its partners.

In October, Pakistan's caretaker government announced that all foreigners residing in the country without legal documents would have to leave by Nov. 1. Pakistan hosts more than 3 million refugees and migrants from neighboring Afghanistan, including roughly 600,000 who fled after the Taliban regained power in August 2021. About 1.7 million of them were believed to lack proper papers when the expulsion order was issued. Since then, more than 400,000 have crossed into Afghanistan.

Pakistan says its decree doesn't target Afghans specifically. But some officials have linked the policy to a recent upsurge in attacks by militants, including Afghans, affiliated with a terrorist group called Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP. Pakistani officials accuse Afghanistan's Taliban rulers of providing the TTP's commanders with havens from which to mount attacks against Pakistan. After trying various means to pressure the Kabul regime, including by raising fees on Afghan goods exported through Pakistani ports and even conducting cross-border airstrikes targeting TTP fighters, Pakistan now appears to be exploiting the migrants as leverage.

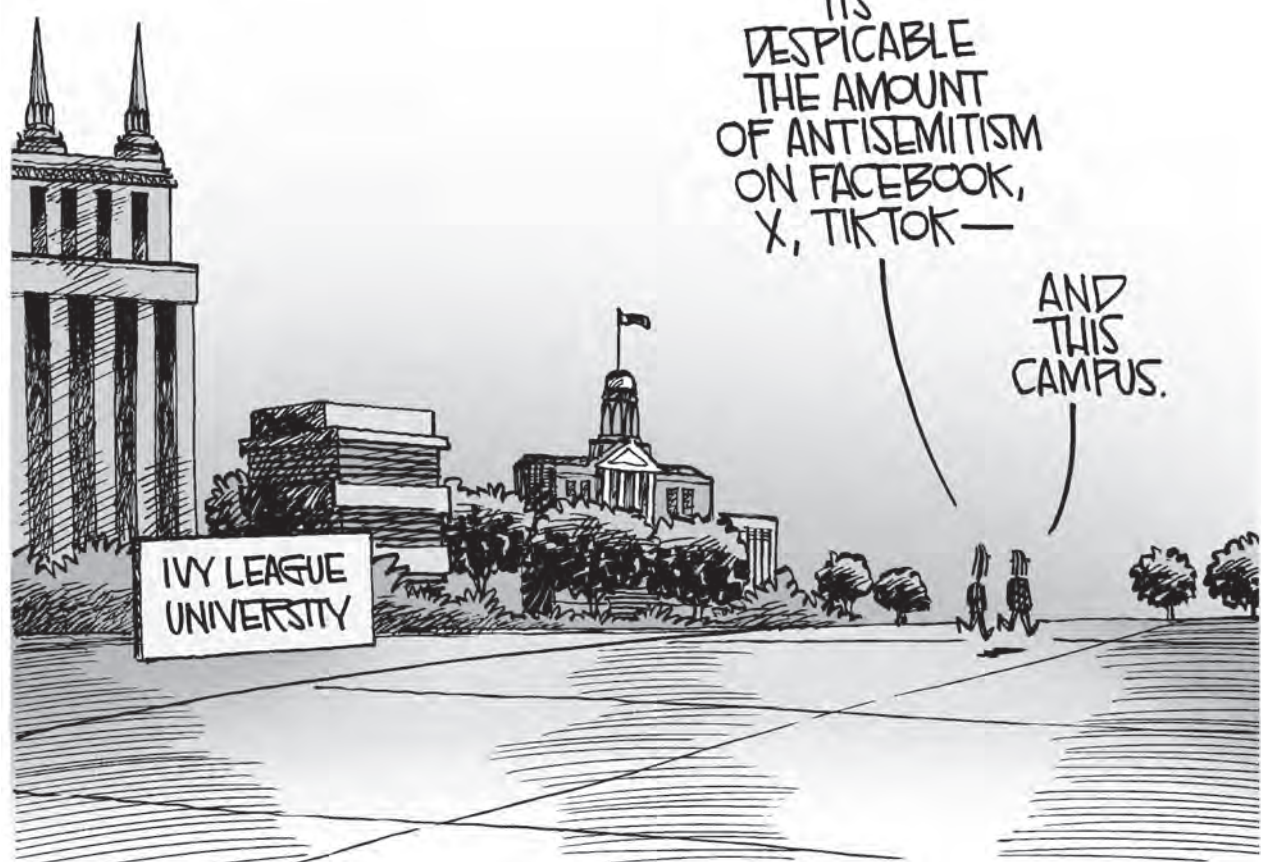
The vast majority of Afghans being expelled have nothing to do with the TTP. Many have lived in Pakistan for years and are returning to a country they barely know. Others worked with NATO forces and are waiting in Pakistan for their visas to the US or other countries to be processed. As they're pushed out, migrants have reportedly been stripped of their money and belongings. According to Human Rights Watch, some have been beaten, threatened with sexual assault or had their homes bulldozed.

In addition to the humanitarian toll, the exodus poses potential security risks. Afghanistan is already facing a dire economic crisis, with two-thirds of the population dependent on outside assistance. Refugees who can't provide for their families may well attempt to migrate again, perhaps to Turkey and onward to Europe, exacerbating the West's migration challenges. More likely, they'll sink deeper into poverty and despair, fueling radicalization and providing terrorist groups such as the TTP, Islamic State and al-Qaeda with new recruits.

For those reasons, the outside world can't afford to look away. President Joe Biden's administration should pressure Pakistan either to reverse its policy or at least delay its implementation until after the harsh winter months, giving both migrants and Afghan officials more time to prepare. Pakistani officials should work with the United Nations to ensure anyone with a credible fear of persecution is not forced back. Afghans who have established some legal status in Pakistan should be given amnesty from deportation.

The U.S. and others also need to live up to their own obligations to Afghans who've fled in fear of the Taliban. They should

See PAKISTAN on Page 9

MIKE SMITH DIST. BY KING FEATURES/SUNDKATE/NAS
LAS VEGAS SUN 2023

Making presidential debates relevant—at last

Don't give up hope. Even though you've now endured your fourth night of crosstalk cacophony that has passed for debating in the 2023 run amok run-up to Campaign 2024.

Of course, you realize history will dismiss all four so-called debates for their obvious irrelevance to the ultimate decision-making of your fellow 2024 Republican voters. After all, it was the fourth debate night in which you never saw or heard from the candidate who half of your fellow Republicans seem ready to hail as their chief. Yet again.

But before you despair, there is a chance (just an outside chance!) that the Republicans who are still running—and all your fellow distressed Republicans who may still be watching—can experience what we used to call a real presidential primary campaign. Complete with presidential primary debates that are actually relevant.

It still can happen. But only if we help by reminding our best-known television journalists (who pretty much run things in our news screen age of video politics) of the one thing they have overlooked so far. They need to make the debates they run, well, debatable.

Luckily, this is their made-for-TV moment. And they have all they need to make it happen before January's Iowa Republican caucus and New Hampshire Republican primary. And yes, it can happen even if Donald Trump isn't on stage (because he prefers performing solo or is precluded by priorities of courtship with Lady Justice).

Let's start by deciding that CNN's Jan. 10 debate in Iowa will be about the one over-arching question that may transcend all other national and global issues: What sort of presidential leadership does America require most of all in this tumultuous time?

Let a screen be set up on the stage, precisely where former president Donald Trump would be standing along with the other presidential candidates. Trump's overwhelming lead in the polls means (as is tradition) that he's earned the privilege of being in the center of the line of candidates—and speaks first. And television producers have ample video of Trump talking in top performance mode about the presidential leadership he will provide—and specifics of what he will do as our next president.

So let Trump speak for himself:

"We pledge to you that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country that lie and steal and cheat on elections. They'll do anything, whether legally or illegally, to destroy America and to destroy the American Dream." (That was from Trump's speech commemorating Veteran's Day.)

Then, one by one, ask Trump's opponents to discuss whether their Republican front-runner's vision of presidential leadership co-

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



incides with their vision, or what they might do differently.

If his vision is challenged and a rebuttal is called for, CNN's debate producers must be prepared to show video of Trump's supporting and elaborating insights in that same New Hampshire speech, as he proclaims himself a "very proud election denier."

And to assure Trump's defense of himself is adequately presented, CNN's debate producers can show Trump providing further analysis of the 2020 election. For example, last March he provided this election elaboration to the Conservative Political Action Conference:

"I won the second election, OK, won it by a lot. You know, when they say, when they say Biden won, the smart people know that didn't (happen)."

Other candidates would then be invited to discuss how their view of leadership might differ from Trump's. And when one of them mentioned the unsolved problems at America's southern border, Trump's leadership vision could be memorably presented. In an October video interview with the conservative news website the National Pulse, Trump opined:

"Nobody has ever seen anything like we're witnessing right now. It is a very sad thing for our country. It's poisoning the blood of our country. It's so bad, and people are coming in with disease. People are coming in with every possible thing that you could have."

Then other candidates on the stage could have the opportunity to explain their views, either sharing Trump's leadership insights or offering a somewhat different approach to governing and safeguarding our democracy.

This much is for sure: On that upcoming January night—for the first time in this long, slo-mo 2024 Republican presidential campaign—voters in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and even in a bathroom mirror near you will finally be able to compare the presidential leadership approaches they have at last been able to see, hear and compare as the Republican presidential hopefuls debated, side by side.

Let the voting begin.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Israel's right to destroy Hamas cannot excuse mounting Palestinian deaths

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Lubna Elayan was a teenage violin student who wore huge black-rimmed glasses and dreamed of becoming a professional musician and playing in international competitions.

In a Facebook photo montage of her practicing and mugging for the camera in her school uniform, her enchanting smile is infectious. That is, until you read in the caption that Elayan died—along with 45 members of her extended family, including her parents and siblings. They were all crowded together in her home on the outskirts of Gaza City, hoping to escape the Israeli bombing.

A relative's posts catalog the babies, children, young couples, and elders who died in the rubble.

Elayan's family is one of an increasing number of extended Gazan families being wiped out by bombs, as reported by media and humanitarian agencies. As Israeli ground forces move south, the number of Palestinian civilian casualties keeps rising at a level that can't be excused by Israel's right to decapitate Hamas. Israeli warnings to civilians are confused and inadequate. Palestinians who try to follow them are still bombed in supposedly safe spots.

This is not only immoral, and a potential war crime, but it is strategically foolish. By ignoring pleas to protect Palestinian civilians, including from President Joe Biden, the Israeli government appears determined to follow a tactic that is bound to boomerang.

Why so? Here are three reasons, along with what the White House should do to press Israel to change course.

Revenge is not a strategy

The death of entire families has become symptomatic of the Hamas-Israel war—on both sides.

Hamas fighters rampaged through Israeli communities near the Gaza border, raping, mutilating, shooting, burning, and kidnapping civilians—often killing several generations of one family. The impact on Israel of the murder of more than 1,200 people (the equivalent of around 40,000 Americans relative to the country's population) has created public pressure to eliminate Hamas, no matter what the cost to ordinary Gazans. So has the taking of 240 Israeli hostages, 123 of whom are still held.

In other words, most (but not all) Israelis are focused on revenge.

According to an investigation by Israeli media outlets +972 Magazine and Local Call, the Israeli army has significantly expanded its bombing “of targets that are not distinctly military in nature” compared with previous military assaults on Gaza after Hamas rockets.

“The loosening of constraints regarding expected civilian casualties,” claims this investigation, “and the use of an artificial intelligence system to generate more potential targets than ever before, appear to have contributed to the destructive nature of the initial stages of Israel's current war on the Gaza Strip.”

Thus, say the report's authors, Israel is bombing civilian apartment blocks and private homes—where desperate Gazan families have clustered together—if there is any suspicion that even one Hamas militant may be inside.

Moreover, as over a million Palestinians have fled south on Israeli orders and are sheltering in awful conditions with little food or water, they are receiving confusing Israeli instructions that they keep changing locales to avoid more bombs. The Israeli military posts these requirements on out-of-date maps that must be checked via the internet. Yet with little electricity, most Gazans in the south have no internet service.

This madness guarantees rising civilian Palestinian casualties, which may, in turn, draw the Lebanese militia Hezbollah further into the battle on Israel's northern front and encourage Iran to expand attacks on U.S. forces in the region.

The mass civilian killings will also make it harder for Israel to ever end its long-running war with Hamas.

Creating more enemies than you kill

So far, according to the Gazan health ministry, more than 17,000 Palestinians have died, and many more may be buried under rubble. An Israeli military spokesman basically verified these figures, claiming 5,000 Hamas fighters had been killed, and that two civil-

ians were killed for each fighter.

The spokesman inexplicably justified this ratio as “tremendously positive.”

But, as the United States learned to its dismay in Vietnam and Iraq, defining victory by the number of slain bad guys while dismissing civilian casualties is a big mistake.

As U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned recently, “I learned a thing or two about urban warfare from my time fighting in Iraq and leading the campaign to defeat ISIS.”

“Like Hamas, ISIS was deeply embedded in urban areas. In this kind of a fight, the center of gravity is the civilian population,” Austin said. “And if you drive them into the arms of the enemy, you replace a tactical victory with a strategic defeat.”

In other words, bombing Gaza back to the Stone Age, and leaving families homeless, jobless, and mourning half their relatives, will only drive their young men to join the next iteration of the Hamas terrorist organization. A study commissioned by former Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal estimated that about 10 terrorists were recruited for every civilian killed.

There must be another way

On Nov. 8, one of America's most experienced Mideast diplomats, Daniel Kurtzer, an Orthodox Jew and former ambassador to both Israel and Egypt, wrote an essay for the Atlantic on why he thought a cease-fire in Gaza was impossible because it would leave Hamas still standing and claiming victory.

“I'm changing my opinion,” he told me recently, citing, in large part, Israel's continued heavy bombing in southern Gaza. “Israel can

deal with Hamas and Gaza without going back to the Middle Ages.”

“They have to fix all their intelligence operations and maintain a watchful eye. They stopped paying attention,” Kurtzer said. “If the cease-fire is broken—if anyone emerges from a tunnel—you respond.” He continued, “You treat this like post-Munich Olympics”—when the planners of the 1972 terrorist attack on Israeli athletes were later assassinated—“which is preferable to leveling the place.”

He added that a precondition for a cease-fire would be the release of all Israeli hostages, with no trade for Palestinian prisoners.

And for the cease-fire to last, Kurtzer said, an Israeli government would have to make a convincing case that it was ready to deal seriously with the underlying causes of unrest in Gaza and the West Bank: the lack of any political horizon leading to some form of Palestinian state. Otherwise, no Arab governments or international donors would be willing to pitch in to help rebuild Gaza, and Israel would be left to manage the destruction.

Sadly, that is too much to hope for from the far-right government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and its extremist ministers. But it is high time for President Biden to intensify his call for another long humanitarian pause, a huge influx of humanitarian aid, the creation of truly safe zones for Palestinians, and an end to the indiscriminate bombing of civilians.

If the Israeli government won't listen, the next step is for Washington to condition aid and vote for U.N. resolutions on a pause and other humanitarian action. The White House must act before more civilian slaughter drags the United States into another Mideast war.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



Palestinians mourn relatives killed in an Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, outside a morgue in Khan Younis, on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. AP

PAKISTAN

From page 8

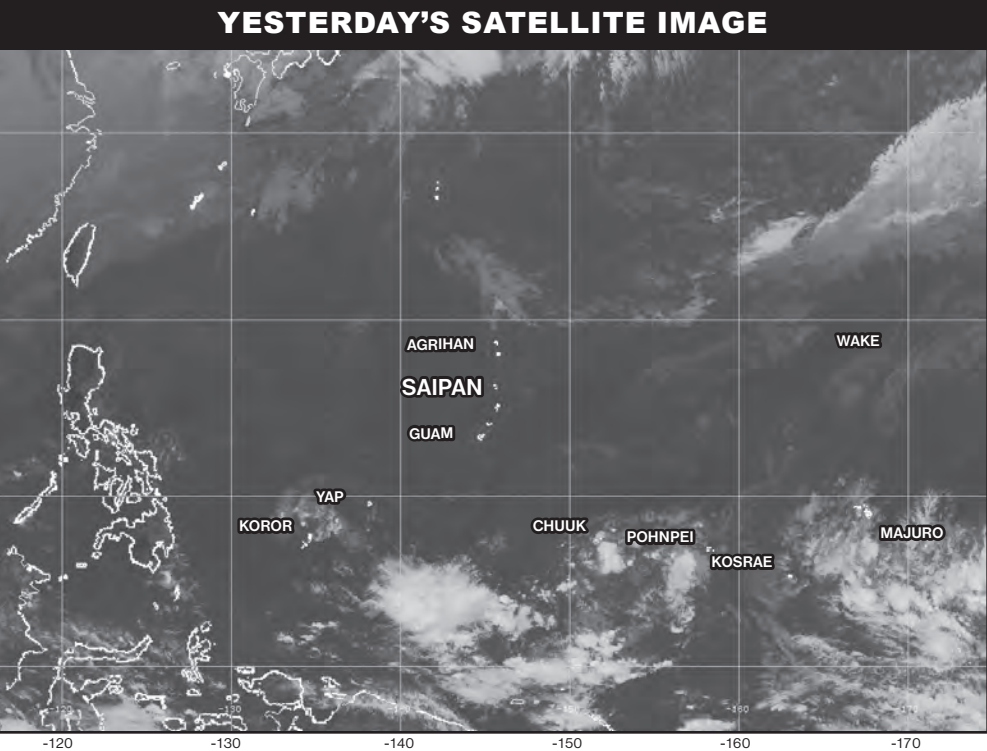
speed up the processing of Afghan asylum claims, provide those who've already immigrated a pathway to permanent residence, and meet the UN's aid appeal for regional countries hosting Afghan refugees, which is less than 30% funded. Afghanistan itself desperately needs more aid, although the regime's abhorrent treatment of women and girls makes further donations unpalatable to Western publics.

Cracking down on the TTP, as Taliban leaders claim they've begun to do, might unlock some funds.

In return for Pakistan's agreement to halt expulsions, the U.S. should share intelligence to help the government locate TTP leaders. Pakistan has a right to address legitimate security concerns. What it should not do is force innocent Afghans, who have seen too much suffering already, to pay the price.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87	77°	87	77°	87	77°	87	77°	87	77°



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies are prevalent this morning with a few showers approaching the region. Seas remain near 6 feet, with a water temperature of 84 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 78°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:35 AM	5:56 PM	-
Thursday	7:38 AM	6:58 PM	-
Friday	8:39 AM	8:03 PM	-
Saturday	9:36 AM	9:08 PM	-
Sunday	10:27 AM	10:10 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain/Wind	70° / 58°	
Beijing	Light Snow	31° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Fair	80° / 69°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 75°	
London	Cloudy	52° / 44°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 52°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°	
Melbourne	Sunny	77° / 55°	
Miami	Sunny	70° / 63°	
New York	Fair	55° / 39°	
Osaka	Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Paris	Cloudy	55° / 50°	
Busan	Cloudy	58° / 48°	
Rome	Cloudy	59° / 41°	
Salem	Sunny	58° / 36°	
San Francisco	Sunny	62° / 46°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	48° / 38°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	60° / 50°	
Washington, DC	Clear	47° / 34°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:34 AM	Low Tide	-0.65	
8:51 AM	High Tide	1.75	
1:59 PM	Low Tide	1.16	
6:45 PM	High Tide	1.76	

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

OVER BARRIERS TO ITS ANDROID APP STORE

Epic Games wins antitrust lawsuit against Google

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal court jury has decided that Google's Android app store has been protected by anticompetitive barriers that have damaged smartphone consumers and software developers, dealing a blow to a major pillar of a technology empire.

The unanimous verdict reached Monday came after just three hours of deliberation following a four-week trial revolving around a lucrative payment system within Google's Play Store. The store is the main place where hundreds of millions of people around the world download and install apps that work on smartphones powered by Google's Android software.

Epic Games, the maker of the popular Fortnite video game, filed a lawsuit against Google three years ago, alleging that the internet search giant has been abusing its power to shield its Play Store from competition in order to protect a gold mine that makes billions of dollars annually. Just as Apple does for its iPhone app store, Google collects a commission ranging from 15% to 30% on digital transactions completed within apps.

Apple prevailed in a similar case that Epic brought against the iPhone app store. But that 2021 trial was decided by a federal judge in a ruling that is under appeal at the U.S. Supreme Court.

The nine-person jury in the Play Store case apparently saw things through a different lens, even though Google technically allows Android apps to be downloaded from different stores—an option that Apple prohibits on the iPhone.

Just before the Play Store trial started, Google sought to avoid having a jury determine the outcome, only to have its request rejected by U.S. District Judge James Donato. Now it will be



AP
Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet, takes part in a discussion at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit Nov. 16, 2023, in San Francisco.

up to Donato to determine what steps Google will have to take to unwind its illegal behavior in the Play Store. The judge indicated he will hold hearings on the issue during the second week of January.

Epic CEO Tim Sweeney broke into a wide grin after the verdict was read and slapped his lawyers on the back and also shook the hand of a Google attorney, whom he thanked for his professional attitude during the proceedings.

"Victory over Google!" Sweeney wrote in a post on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. In a company post, Epic hailed the verdict as "a win for all app developers and consumers around the world."

Google plans to appeal the verdict, according to a statement from Wilson White, the company's vice president of government affairs and public policy.

"Android and Google Play provide more choice and openness than any other major mobile platform," White said.

Depending on how the judge enforces the jury's verdict, Google could lose billions of dollars in annual profit generated from its Play Store commissions. The company's main source of revenue—digital advertising tied mostly to its search engine, Gmail and other services—won't be directly affected by the trial's outcome.

The jury reached its decision after listening to two hours of closing arguments from the lawyers on the opposing sides of the case.

Epic lawyer Gary Bornstein depicted Google as a ruthless bully that deploys a "bribe and block" strategy to discourage competition against its Play Store for Android apps. Google lawyer Jonathan Kravis attacked Epic as a self-interested game maker trying to use the courts to save itself money while undermining an ecosystem that has spawned billions of Android smartphones to compete against Apple and its iPhone.

Much of the lawyers' duel-

ing arguments touched upon the testimony from a litany of witnesses who came to court during the trial.

The key witnesses included Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who sometimes seemed like a professor explaining complex topics while standing behind a lectern because of a health issue, and Sweeney, who painted himself as a video game lover on a mission to take down a greedy tech titan.

In his closing argument for Epic, Bornstein railed against Google for exploiting its power over the Android software in a way that "has led to higher prices for developers and consumers, as well as less innovation and quality."

Google has staunchly defended the commissions as a way to help recoup the more than \$40 billion that it has poured into building into the Android software that it has been giving away since 2007 to manufacturers to compete against the iPhone.

"Android phones cannot

million retention grant that doesn't vest until 2025.

Boeing has struggled with manufacturing and supply-chain problems that have interrupted production of the Max and a larger airliner, the 787 Dreamliner. It has also suffered setbacks in military programs, including a contract with the U.S. Air Force to build two new presidential jets.

The company lost \$2.2 billion in the first nine months of this year after losing more than \$5 billion last year. However, it has a huge backlog of orders for commercial planes, as airlines look to update their fleets with more fuel-efficient models.

idence of a free market. Combined with the rival app stores pre-installed on devices made by other companies, more than 60% of Android phones offer alternative outlets for Android apps.

Epic, though, presented evidence asserting the notion that Google welcomes competition as a pretense, citing the hundreds of billions of dollars it has doled out to companies, such as game maker Activision Blizzard, to discourage them from opening rival app stores. Besides making these payments, Bornstein also urged the jury to consider the Google "scare screens" that pop up, warning consumers of potential security threats when they try to download Android apps from some of the alternatives to the Play Store.

"These are classic anticompetitive strategies used by dominant firms to protect their monopolies," Bornstein said.

Google's empire could be further undermined by another major antitrust trial in Washington that will be decided by a federal judge after hearing final arguments in May. That trial has cast a spotlight on Google's cozy relationship with Apple in online search, the technology that turned Google into a household word a few years after two former Stanford University graduate students started the company in a Silicon Valley garage in 1998.

Hasbro cuts 1,100 jobs, or 20% of its workforce

NEW YORK (AP)—Toy maker Hasbro said Monday it is cutting about 1,100 jobs, or 20% of its workforce, as the malaise in the toy business extends through another holiday shopping season.

The nearly century-old Rhode Island-based company behind Monopoly, Play-Doh and My Little Pony toys disclosed the layoffs in a memo to employees published in a regulatory filing. The Wall Street Journal first reported the news.

The company said that the reductions are on top of 800 job cuts that have been taken so far in 2023 as part of moves announced last year to save up to \$300 million annually by 2025. As of year-end 2022, the company said it had 6,490 employees.

Like many toy companies, Hasbro is struggling with a slowdown in sales after a surge during pandemic lockdowns when parents were splurging on toys to keep their children

busy. Last holiday season, many toy companies had to slash prices to get rid of merchandise due to weak demand. And the challenges have continued. Toy sales in the U.S. were down 8% from January through August, based on Circana's most recent data.

"The market headwinds we anticipated have proven to be stronger and more persistent than planned," Hasbro CEO Chris Cocks wrote in the memo. "While we have made some important progress across our organization, the headwinds we saw through the first nine months of the year have continued into holiday and are likely to persist into 2024."

Cocks had said the toy-maker will "focus on fewer, bigger brands; gaming; digital; and our rapidly growing direct to consumer and licensing businesses."

Shares in Hasbro Inc. fell almost 6% in after-market trading Monday.

Boeing promotes insider to COE, putting her in discussions as possible next CEO

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—Boeing has promoted the head of its services business to chief operating officer, putting the female executive in discussion as a potential heir apparent to CEO David Calhoun in a male-dominated industry.

Boeing said Monday that Stephanie Pope's elevation to the job, which includes the title of executive vice president, takes effect Jan. 1.

Pope has spent nearly 30 years at Boeing, holding down key financial jobs in the com-

pany's defense, commercial airplanes and services divisions. She became CEO of the services unit last year.

Some industry observers were quick to tap Pope, 51, as a contender to become the aerospace company's next CEO. Richard Aboulafia, managing director of aerospace consultant AeroDynamic Advisory, named Pope and Chief Financial Officer Brian West as potential successors to Calhoun.

Calhoun, 66, has held the

top job since January 2020, when he replaced Dennis Muilenburg, who was fired during the fallout from two fatal crashes involving Boeing 737 Max jets. Calhoun, however, has shown no indication that he plans to retire anytime soon.

Days after Calhoun turned 64 in 2021, Boeing raised the retirement age for CEO from 65 to 70—he won't reach that age until early 2028. In February of this year, the company board gave Calhoun a \$5.3

Nation

Biden calls 'surge' in antisemitism 'sickening' during Hanukkah reception

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden hosted a Hanukkah reception at the White House on Monday night, vowing to continue to stand with Israel in its war with Hamas while saying that a “surge of antisemitism” around the globe “is sickening.”

Nearly 800 guests filled the East Room to almost overflowing. The crowd included Holocaust survivors, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and around two dozen members of Congress. Also present were Jewish community leaders and second gentleman Doug Emhoff, who was among those who lit a menorah partially made from the original timbers of the White House.

The husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, Emhoff is the first Jewish person to be the spouse of one of the country's nationally elected leaders. Last week he presided over the lighting ceremony of a massive menorah in front of the White House.

A menorah is lit nightly during the eight-day Jewish festival, which this year is being



President Joe Biden arrives to speak at a Hanukkah reception in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. AP

celebrated from Dec. 7 until Friday. Rabbi Angela Buchdahl of Central Synagogue in New York City led Monday's ceremony, telling the president: “You've been a steadfast supporter of Israel's right to defend itself. A trusted and true friend

to the Jewish people.”

Buchdahl talked about the darkness of the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, which triggered war with Israel. But she said that since, “It's only gotten darker, with many around the world justifying terrorism,

normalizing antisemitism, with the pain of so many lives lost—Israeli and Palestinian—in this just but tragic war.”

She also drew sustained applause when she called Biden “a beacon of strength.”

The president told the crowd, “You don't have to be a Jew to be a Zionist.” He said that while he doesn't always agree with Israel's leaders and governmental policies, “Were there no Israel, there would not be a Jew in the world who is safe.”

“We continue to provide military assistance until they get rid of Hamas but we have to be careful,” Biden said of

U.S. support for the war. He added: “The whole world, public opinion can shift overnight. We can't let that happen.”

The Biden administration in May announced what it called the first-ever national strategy to counter antisemitism. Still, antisemitism has only intensified in some quarters as criticism rises over the mounting Palestinian death toll. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned of an impending “humanitarian catastrophe” in Gaza.

Biden said of hostages being held by Hamas, which U.S. authorities have been

working for months to help free, “We're not going to stop until we get every one of them home.” The crowd also cheered when he talked of his administration's efforts to increase humanitarian aid flowing to civilians in Gaza caught in the fighting.

Others, though, have decried Biden's stance on the war. Earlier Monday, protesters gathered outside the White House as nearly 20 women describing themselves as “Jewish elders” chained themselves to the fence around the grounds. Wearing black T-shirts reading “Not In Our Name,” they chanted: “Biden, Biden, pick a side! Cease-fire not genocide!” while reading the names of those killed in Gaza.

Authorities took the women away after using a bolt cutter to cut the chains that had encircled the protesters' waists. Organizers said they deliberately picked the day of the White House's Hanukkah celebration to protest.

“We, as elder Jews, we know what genocide looks like. We know what genocide feels like. It's in our bodies, in our bones,” said Esther Farmer of Jewish Voice for Peace, which organized the demonstration. “It's horrifying, it's devastating. Sometimes, it's hard to get up in the morning to see this, and it's being done in the name of Jews. So we are here—as elderly Jews—to say, not in our name.”

Groups want full federal appeals court to revisit ruling limiting scope of the Voting Rights Act

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Progressive advocacy groups in Arkansas on Monday asked a full federal appeals court to reconsider a three-judge panel's ruling that private groups can't sue under a key section of the federal Voting Rights Act.

The Arkansas Public Policy Panel and the Arkansas State Conference NAACP asked for the case to go before the full 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after a panel ruled 2-1 last month that only the U.S. attorney general can enforce Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

The groups, which are challenging Arkansas' new state House districts under the law, told reporters in a conference call that the ruling reverses decades of precedent and would remove a key tool for voters to stand up for their rights if it's not reversed. It also would put future challenges at the whims of partisan politics, since the president nominates the attorney general.

“By jeopardizing private parties' ability to enforce the act, the panel decision threatens to make the promise of the Voting Rights Act hollow and should not be allowed to stand,” said Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the Voting Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing

the groups in the case.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act requires political maps to include districts where minority populations' preferred candidates can win elections. Lawsuits have long been brought under the section to try to ensure that Black voters have adequate political representation in places with a long history of racism, including many Southern states.

Earlier this year, for example, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered Alabama's congressional map redrawn to boost representation for Black voters in a case brought by private individuals and groups.

“I just want to make sure that we are able to speak up, speak out and give those people voices that they need on what's going on in our community,” Barry Jefferson, president of the Arkansas State Conference of the NAACP, said. “Their votes are their voice.”

The groups said in their request Monday that last month's ruling conflicts with all three other appeals courts that have ruled on the issue. It noted that Congress has repeatedly reauthorized the Voting Rights Act without questioning the privately enforced cases.

“If the panel decision is left undisturbed, this vitally important statute will mean different

things in different parts of the country,” the filing said.

In a statement Monday, Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin, a Republican, called the appeals panel's decision “well-reasoned” and said it correctly explained why only the federal government could bring lawsuits under Section 2.

“I will continue to vigorously defend the Arkansas Board of Apportionment in this case,” Griffin said, referring to the three-member panel that draws the state's legislative districts. The board includes the governor, attorney general and secretary of state.

The 8th Circuit ruling applies only to federal courts covered by the district, which includes Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The groups' request comes as Louisiana is asking the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider a different conclusion from one of its three-judge panels, which rejected the argument that there is no private right to sue under the Voting Rights Act. Ruling in a Louisiana congressional redistricting case, the 5th Circuit panel said the U.S. Supreme Court so far has upheld the right of private litigants to bring lawsuits alleging violations of Section 2, as have other circuit appellate courts.

George Santos is in plea negotiations with federal prosecutors

Former U.S. Rep. George Santos is in negotiations to resolve his federal criminal fraud case, prosecutors said in a court filing Monday.

“The parties are presently engaged in plea negotiations with the goal of resolving this matter without the need for a trial,” U.S. Attorney Breon Peace's office wrote in the filing.

Santos is scheduled to appear in court on Long Island for a hearing in the case Tuesday. He acknowledged in an interview that aired Sunday that he hadn't ruled out pleading guilty.

“The trial is not until September and a plea is not off the table. So there's obviously conversations taking place, especially after what happened in Congress, and we'll see,” he said in the interview with CBS 2, referring to his expulsion from Congress earlier this month.

Asked if he is afraid of going to jail, Santos responded: “I think everybody should be afraid of going to jail, it's not a pretty place and uh, I definitely want to work very hard to avoid

that as best as possible.”

Prosecutors said in Monday's filing they are also seeking an earlier trial date in case the negotiations fail to produce a deal. The request is opposed by Santos' lawyer, who didn't respond to an email seeking comment Monday.

Santos faces a host of charges that he defrauded donors to his campaign, lied to Congress about his wealth, received unemployment benefits while employed and used campaign contributions to pay for personal expenses like designer clothing. He pleaded not guilty in October to additional charges that he made tens of thousands of dollars in unauthorized charges on credit cards belonging to some of his campaign donors.

Santos hasn't wasted any time looking to cash in on his infamy since becoming just the sixth lawmaker in history to be cast out by colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, a move that left Republicans with a razor-thin majority in the chamber.

The 35-year-old Queens native launched an account on the website Cameo, where the public can pay him for a personalized video message. In the televised interview, Santos said he made more money in a week on the platform than his annual salary as a congressman.

Santos was touted as a rising star after he flipped the suburban district that covers the affluent North Shore of Long Island and a slice of the New York City borough of Queens last year.

But his life story unraveled before he was even sworn into office: Reports revealed he had lied about having Jewish ancestry, a career at top Wall Street firms and a college degree, among other things.

A special election will be held Feb. 13 to elect his House successor. That race will likely pit former U.S. Rep. Thomas Suozzi, a Democrat who previously held the seat before running unsuccessfully for governor, against one of a number of Republicans. (AP)

Asia

Over 300 Rohingya Muslims arrive in Indonesia's Aceh

ACEH BESAR, Indonesia (AP)—Two boats carrying more than 300 Rohingya Muslims, including emaciated women and children, arrived at Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Sunday morning after being adrift for weeks.

One boat, which had been at sea for about one and a half months and carrying 135 people, arrived at a beach in Lamreh village in Aceh Besar Regency. The boat held 65 women, 35 men, 20 girls and 15 boys.

"The boat was sinking. We had no food or water left," said Shahidul Islam, 34. He said they had left their refugee camp in Bangladesh.

But residents around the beach in Lamreh village hesitated to have the refugees near their homes. The residents took the 135 refugees in four trucks to the Aceh governor's office in the city of Banda Aceh Sunday night.

The other boat carrying 180 people—74 women, 53 men, 27 girls and 26 boys—arrived at a beach in Blang Raya village in Pidie Regency. It had been adrift in the Andaman Sea without adequate supplies for about 27 days.

Mahmud Husein, 25, a survi-

vor, said he gave the boat owner 40,000 taka (\$363) to help him leave Bangladesh.

"We came to Indonesia, but we want to go to other countries if they want to help us," Husein said.

Another boat, carrying more refugees, embarked from Bangladesh at the same time, Husein confirmed, but it remained missing. The U.N. refugee agency warned that people on-board could die if more was not done to rescue them.

About 740,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Buddhist-majority Myanmar to camps in Bangladesh since August 2017, following a brutal counterinsurgency campaign. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and the burning of thousands of Rohingya homes, and international courts are considering whether their actions constitute genocide.

Since November, more than 1,500 Rohingya refugees have arrived by boat in Indonesia's Aceh province. Some were denied landing by the residents in Aceh Utara district and Sabang island, sparking concerns from human rights organizations.

Rijalul Fitri, head of Blang

Raya village in Aceh, said Sunday they did not want the refugees in their village. "We stayed up all night so as not to allow them to dock, but at 2:30 a.m., they arrived," he said.

Fitri was adamant about the refugees' relocation, saying, "They can't stay here."

President Joko Widodo on Friday said in a statement that Indonesia's government suspected a surge in human trafficking because of the increasing number of Rohingya Muslims who entered the country over the past few weeks, especially in Aceh.

Police in the city of Lohkseumawe, where there is a camp for Rohingya Muslim refugees, arrested three Aceh residents for alleged human trafficking. They were charged with taking 1.8 million rupiah (about \$115), to smuggle 30 refugees from the camp to the city of Medan in North Sumatra province, said Henki Ismanto, the Lohkseumawe police chief.

Most of the refugees leaving by sea attempt to reach Muslim-majority Malaysia in search of work. Indonesia, where Muslims comprise nearly 90% of the country's 277 million people, has been detaining them.

India Supreme Court upholds gov't decision to remove disputed Kashmir's special status

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—India's top court on Monday upheld a 2019 decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to strip disputed Jammu and Kashmir's special status as a semi-autonomous region with a separate constitution and inherited protections on land and jobs.

The five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court ruled that the region's special status had been a "temporary provision" and that removing it in 2019 was constitutionally valid.

The unprecedented move also divided the region into two federal territories, Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir, both ruled directly by the central government without a legislature of their own. It was the first time in the history of India that a region's statehood was downgraded to a federally administered territory.

As a result, the Muslim-majority region is now run by unelected government officials and has lost its flag, criminal code and constitution.

But Chief Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud said the government has

promised to restore Jammu-Kashmir's statehood and should do so as soon as possible. Ladakh, however, will remain a federal territory.

He also ordered the country's election commission to hold legislative polls in the region by Sept. 30.

The ruling is expected to boost the electoral prospects of Modi's governing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in national polls next year. The 2019 move resonated in much of India, where the Modi government was cheered by supporters for fulfilling a long-held Hindu nationalist pledge to scrap the Muslim-majority region's special status.

But the judgment will disappoint many in Kashmir, including the region's main pro-India Kashmiri politicians who had petitioned the Supreme Court to reverse the deeply unpopular decision, which was imposed under an unprecedented security and communication clampdown that lasted many months.

When Britain divided its Indian colony into a Hindu-majority India and a Muslim-majority Pakistan in 1947, the status of what was then the

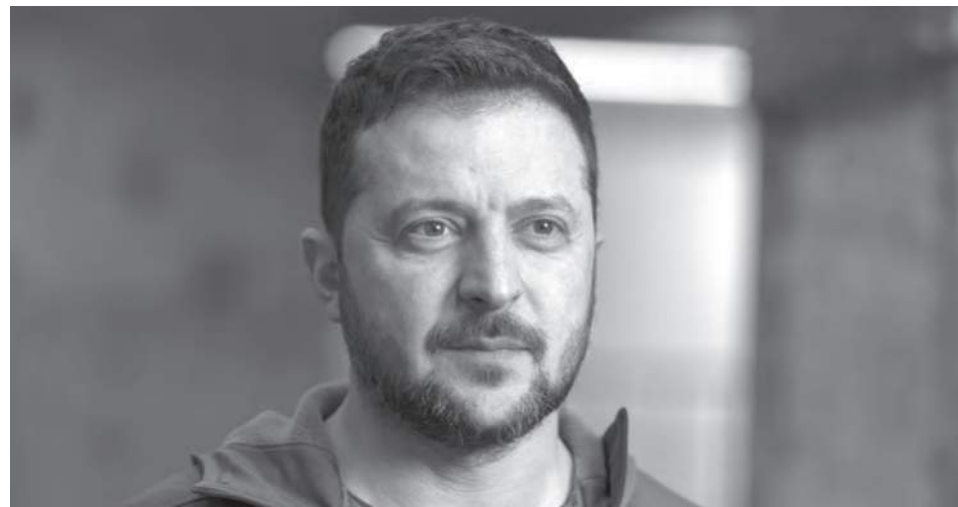
princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was left undecided. India and Pakistan soon began a war over Kashmir, which ended with both countries controlling parts of the territory, divided by a heavily militarized frontier.

A 1948 United Nations resolution called for a referendum in Kashmir giving the territory's people the choice of joining either Pakistan or India, but it never happened. The part of Kashmir controlled by India was granted semi-autonomy and special privileges in exchange for accepting Indian rule.

Kashmiri discontent with India started taking root as successive Indian governments breached the pact of Kashmir's autonomy. Local governments were toppled one after another and largely peaceful movements against Indian control were harshly suppressed. Kashmiri dissidents launched a full-blown armed revolt in 1989, seeking unification with Pakistan or complete independence. Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the conflict.

World

Zelenskyy issues plea for support in recent visit to Washington, DC



AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy poses for a photo after his interview with The Associated Press in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Nov. 30, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy kicked off a quick visit to Washington on Monday, warning in a speech at a defense university that Russia may be fighting in Ukraine but its "real target is freedom" in America and around the world. He also issued a personal plea for Congress to break its deadlock and approve continued support for Ukraine.

His time in Washington, which will include meetings Tuesday at the White House and with Congress, is part of a last-minute push by the Biden administration to persuade lawmakers to pass a supplemental funding bill, as officials warn that the money for Ukraine is running out. But the mood on Capitol Hill ahead of Zelenskyy's visit was grim as leading Senate

negotiators said they were essentially out of time to strike a deal on U.S.-Mexico border security policies that Republicans have insisted be included in the package.

President Joe Biden has asked Congress for \$61.4 billion for wartime funding for Ukraine as part of a \$110 billion package that also includes money for Israel and other national security priorities. But the request is caught up in a debate over U.S. immigration policy and border security. The U.S. has already provided Ukraine \$111 billion for its fight against Russia's 2022 invasion.

"If there's anyone inspired by unresolved issues on Capitol Hill, it's just (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and his sick clique," Zelenskyy told an audience of military leaders and students at the

National Defense University. "Ukrainians haven't given up and won't give up. We know what to do. And you can count on Ukraine. And we hope just as much to be able to count on you."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who introduced the Ukrainian president, said America's commitment to Ukraine is unshakeable and supporting the war is critical to ensuring the security of the U.S. and its allies.

"America's commitments must be honored. America's security must be defended. And America's word must be kept," Austin said.

He said Zelenskyy is "living proof that a single person's leadership can help rally an embattled democracy and inspire the free world and change the course of history."

Palestinians hope vote in UN General Assembly will show wide support for a Gaza cease-fire

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The Palestinians are hoping that a vote Tuesday in the U.N. General Assembly on a nonbinding resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian cease-fire will demonstrate widespread global support for ending the Israel-Hamas war, now in its third month.

After the United States vetoed a resolution in the Security Council on Friday demanding a humanitarian cease-fire, Arab and Islamic nations called for an emergency session of the 193-member General Assembly on Tuesday afternoon to vote on a resolution making the same demand.

Unlike Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions are not legally

binding. But as U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said Monday, the assembly's messages "are also very important" and reflect world opinion.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations, told The Associated Press on Sunday that the defeated resolution in the Security Council was co-sponsored by 103 countries, and he is hoping for more co-sponsors and a high vote for the General Assembly resolution on Tuesday.

In the first U.N. response to the Gaza war, the General Assembly on Oct. 27 called for a "humanitarian truce" in Gaza leading to a cessation of hostilities. The vote was 120-14 with 45 abstentions.

After four failures, the

Security Council on Nov. 15 adopted its first resolution after the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, calling for "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses" in Gaza to address the escalating crisis for Palestinian civilians during Israel's aerial and ground attacks.

That vote in the 15-member council was 12-0 with the United States, United Kingdom and Russia abstaining. The U.S. and U.K. said they abstained because the resolution did not condemn Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel in which about 1,200 people were killed and 240 abducted, and Russia because of its failure to demand a humanitarian cease-fire, which Israel and the United States oppose.

Good Housekeeping



A long sofa provides an example of a straight furniture placement in this living space.

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

One of the biggest challenges when it comes to setting up one's space relates to how to properly place furniture. Knowing the basic elements of spatial design and common floor plan configurations will help to serve as a guide.

- Common Room Shapes**
- Rectangular
 - Square
 - Angled
 - Curved

While rectangular shaped rooms is the most common floor plan shape it may pose challenges as it relates to floor plan layout. Glass walls or rectangular rooms with windows, closets or door openings can be difficult to plan when it comes to furniture placement.

Getting started: The planning process

Before purchasing any furni-



Two seating arrangements placed opposite each other serve as an example of a parallel furniture layout.

ture be sure to pre-plan by following these Design Recipes tips: Measure your space, both the width and length and if needed the height.

Obtain measurements for your desired furniture. Nearly all furniture selections will

provide product dimensions. Plan and Sketch. Plan out your space on paper. This step isn't about drawing ability but is a helpful visualization tool.

Typical furniture layouts

- Straight

- Parallel
 - Angled
 - L Shaped
- Straight:** This type of furniture arrangement works well when one has a long wall in which furniture is mostly arranged along a single wall or plane.

Parallel: This furniture arrangement works well in narrow rooms. With this arrangement, furniture groupings are placed opposite each other.

Angled: This arrangement can work well when space is challenging as angling helps to maintain the openness of a space.

L Shaped: This popular arrangement helps to frame a space while still allowing for an open feel.

Takeaway tip
Go modular. Modular furniture pieces allow for the most about of flexibility, furniture arrangements and configurations.



A sofa paired with elements such as a tree, side chair and side tables create an L shaped furniture arrangement.

How to grow easy-care aloe vera, nature's burn ointment

By MELINDA MYERS
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Grow your own burn ointment by adding aloe vera to your indoor plant collection. This succulent has been used for centuries to treat superficial burns, cuts, sunburn and more.

The gel inside the leaves is the medicinal part of the plant. Just cut away the outer part of the leaf and use just the gel on the problem areas. Make sure to remove the latex plant sap located between the outer layer (skin) of the leaf and the gel that can cause skin irritation. It is always best to test a small area of your skin first.

You may have read about aloe vera being used in beverages and desserts. Properly prepare the aloe before consuming. Make sure to remove the latex and use only the gel to avoid cramps, diarrhea and stomach upset. Keep aloe vera plants out of the reach of children, cats and dogs.

Plant aloe vera in a container with drainage holes. Consider using a clay pot that allows the soil to thoroughly dry between watering and prevent larger often top-heavy plants from tipping over. Use a pot as wide as it is deep whenever possible to accommodate the spreading nature of this plant.

Cover the drainage hole with a coffee filter or piece of paper towel. This prevents the potting mix from leaking out the drainage holes after planting. Use a well-drained cacti and succulent potting mix.

Grow this plant in a sunny window along with your other cacti and succulents. South and unobstructed east or west-facing windows are usually best. Set it under artificial lights if a brightly lit

location is not available. Water thoroughly whenever the top third of the soil is dry. Avoid applying water over the center of the plant where it can collect between the leaves and lead to rot. Pour off excess water that collects in the saucer.

Prevent early death of your plant by avoiding waterlogged soil. Watering too often or allowing the pot to sit in excess water can lead to root rot and the death of the plant. You will need to water less often in winter when days are shorter, light intensity is lower and plant growth is limited.

Keep plants away from cold drafts and temperatures below 50 degrees that can damage the plants. Northern gardeners may need to move the plants back a bit from the window in winter as outside temperatures drop.

Clean leaves occasionally with a damp rag. This removes any dust that may collect on the leaves and helps reduce the risk of insect pests such as mealy bugs and aphids. These plants are sensitive to many chemicals, so check the label and test a leaf before treating the whole plant if treatment is needed.

Watch for small plants to form at the base of the original plant. You can use these offsets, often called plantlets or pups, to start new plants to grow or share with others. Use a sharp knife to separate the small plants, roots and all, from the parent plant. Repot the offsets in small containers just an inch or two larger than the remaining root system.

Enjoy the beauty and medicinal benefits of this easy-care plant. Then consider gifting a few to your favorite gardeners and cooks.



A pair of side chairs are angled in order to show spaciousness in a lower-level living space.

Life & Style

'Barbie' leads Golden Globe noms with 9, 'Oppenheimer' follows closely

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" dominated the Golden Globe Awards nominations with nine nods for the blockbuster film, including best picture musical or comedy as well as acting nominations for Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling and three of its original songs.

It was closely followed by its release date and meme companion Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer," which scored eight nominations, including best picture drama and for actors Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr. and Emily Blunt.

In a statement, Gerwig said she, "can't wait to bring the Barbie party to the Globes."

The revamped group, now a for-profit endeavor with a larger and more diverse voting body, announced nominations Monday for its January awards show, after scandal and several troubled years, including one without a broadcast. Cedric the Entertainer and Wilmer Valderrama presided over the announcements from the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where the show will also take place on Jan. 7.

Films nominated for best motion picture drama included "Oppenheimer," Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," Bradley Cooper's "Maestro," Celine Song's "Past Lives," Justine Triet's "Anatomy of a Fall" and Jonathan Glazer's "The Zone of Interest."

In the best motion picture musical or comedy category, "Barbie" was joined by "Air," "American Fiction" "The Holdovers," "May December" and "Poor Things."

Yorgos Lanthimos' "Poor Things" and Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" both received seven nominations each.



Ryan Gosling, left, and Margot Robbie pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Barbie' on July 12, 2023, in London.

"Poor Things" saw nominations for Lanthimos, its actors Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo, Willem Dafoe, and Tony McNamara for screenplay. "Killers of the Flower Moon" got nods for Scorsese, for direction and co-writing the screenplay with Eric Roth, and stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone and Robert De Niro.

Stone, who was also nominated for the Showtime series "The Curse," said in a statement that she was "Feeling extremely bewildered and thankful for it all." She also said her "Poor Things" character Bella Baxter is her favorite.

DiCaprio praised Gladstone in his statement: "She is the soul of our film and helped to bring this sinister and painful part of our nation's history to life," he wrote. The film is about the murders of wealthy Osage individuals in Oklahoma in the early 20th century.

"Barbie" tied for second-most nominations in Globes history with "Cabaret," from 1972.

Robert Altman's "Nashville" remains the record-holder with 11 nominations. It went into the morning as a favorite and got a big boost from its three original song nominations, including "I'm Just Ken," and one of the year's new categories, recognizing cinematic and box office achievement. One person who was not nominated was America Ferrera, who delivered the movie's most memorable monologue.

"Succession" was the top-nominated television program, with nine nods including for series stars Brian Cox, Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin, followed by Hulu's "The Bear."

As always there were some big surprises, like Jennifer Lawrence getting nominated for her bawdy R-rated comedy "No Hard Feelings" for best performance by a female actor in a musical or comedy. She was nominated alongside Robbie, Stone and Fantasia

Barrino ("The Color Purple"), Natalie Portman ("May December") and Alma Pöysti ("Fallen Leaves").

Barrino heard the news from her husband who she immediately called back to make sure she wasn't dreaming.

"My voice is shot because I've been screaming, crying and just telling God, 'Thank you.' I almost allowed fear to hinder me from this role, to keep me from this role," she told the AP through tears. She's been on the road for work and said she's excited to go home and experience it with her children.

"The Color Purple" was expected to do better. The adaptation of the stage musical got only two nominations total, both for actors, for Barrino and Danielle Brooks for her supporting performance. Left out was Colman Domingo, who was nominated for best drama actor for "Rustin."

Cord Jefferson's comedy "American Fiction" also came

up with only two nods, best musical or comedy and for lead actor Jeffrey Wright, who plays a frustrated writer.

"I don't think it's totally healthy to think about these things too much, but they're there, so one does," Wright told the AP Monday. "I'm really pleased that the film is being recognized more so than my own personal recognition."

Sofia Coppola's widely acclaimed "Priscilla" got only one nomination, for actor Cailee Spaeny's portrayal of Priscilla Presley. Her category mates in best female performance in a drama include Gladstone, Annette Bening for "Nyad," Sandra Hüller for "Anatomy of a Fall," Greta Lee for "Past Lives" and Carey Mulligan for "Maestro."

The Globes won't have to worry about anyone criticizing its "all male" directors this year, however. Gerwig was nominated as was Celine Song, for her romantic debut "Past Lives," alongside Nolan, Scorsese, Cooper and Lanthimos.

Netflix got the most nominations overall, with 13 total for a slate which included "Maestro," "May December" and "Rustin," followed by Warner Bros., which made "Barbie" and "The Color Purple" with 12.

Ridley Scott's "Napoleon" was not nominated at all. Instead, its star Joaquin Phoenix was recognized for "Beau is Afraid" in the lead actor comedy/musical category, with Wright, Matt Damon ("Air"), Nicolas Cage "Dream Scenario," Timothée Chalamet ("Wonka") and Paul Giamatti ("The Holdovers"). Michael Mann's "Ferrari," with Adam Driver, and Wes Anderson's starchy "Asteroid City" also

got zero nominations.

The voting body has now grown to 300 members, following backlash to a 2021 report in the Los Angeles Times that found that there were zero Black members in the group that was then composed of only 87 foreign journalists.

Perhaps as a result, there were more international films and actors nominated in prominent categories including the Finnish comedy "Fallen Leaves," the courtroom thriller "Anatomy of a Fall" and the harrowing Auschwitz drama "The Zone of Interest."

The 81st Golden Globes will be the first major broadcast of awards season, with a new home on CBS, but no word yet on a host. It's been tumultuous few years behind the scenes in the aftermath of the L.A. Times report, which also exposed ethical lapses like its members accepting lavish gifts and travel from awards publicists and studios.

The Globes had long been one of the highest-profile awards season broadcasts, second only to the Oscars. Before the pandemic, it was still pulling in around 19 million viewers. The show was touted as a boozy, A-list party, whose hosts often took a more irreverent tone than their academy counterparts.

Some years, the HFPA were pilloried for nominating poorly reviewed films with big name talent with hopes of getting them to the show, the most infamous being "The Tourist," with Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp. In the past decade, they've more often overlapped with the Oscars.

This year, NBC's Tuesday night broadcast got its smallest audience ever for the ceremony, with 6.3 million viewers.

Romance blossoms within blended 'family'

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend, "George," for 17 years following our divorces. I have three grown children. He has four—two of whom are still at home. We have never lived together.

My daughter and George's son (still at home) had a crush on each other when they were teenagers. Fast-forward 10 years—they have reunited and expressed their love for one another. Although George cares deeply for all my children, I'm afraid he feels my daughter may not be the best choice for his son. She is unemployed and has health issues, and his family's opinions (they are VERY outspoken and value a strong work ethic) weigh heavily on his son.

George "parents" his adult children who are still living with him. (George stayed home until he got married at 30.) His parenting style includes hollering at his kids when they're not tending to their chores or his directives or they're staying out all night. This could possibly come between us. I should add, he's always been good to me in every way. What do you think of all this?

LESS CERTAIN IN THE EAST

DEAR LESS CERTAIN: What I think should have no bearing on any of this. The "children" are all adults. You can't orchestrate their lives for them. You and George need to calm down and let this scenario play out. Que sera, sera.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, a smart, lovely, professional young woman, was recently diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. She graduated summa cum laude from graduate school, and I am obviously very proud of her.

The problem is, she seems depressed and has gained a lot of weight (50-plus pounds) on her small frame. I know she's sensitive about her weight, but when I visit her, she does not watch what she's eating, and her sweet-aholic boyfriend either doesn't care or is unaware of the damage diabetes can have on an overweight person.

My father was diabetic and died at 55. By then, he was blind, and every part of his body had been affected by this terrible disease. I need to do something, but I don't know how to approach her about this. I don't want to alienate her, but I know she's headed down a very destructive path if she doesn't take better care of herself. Please give me some ideas on how to HELP.

ALARMED DAD IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DAD: Have an in-person conversation about this with your daughter and include her boyfriend. Explain to them that diabetes can run in families and can cause severe damage if ignored and left untreated, as you already know. Is your daughter aware that diabetes caused your father's dis-

DEAR ABBY

By **Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ability and premature death? She needs to know.

It is crucial that she consult an endocrinologist and learn to manage her condition, which may involve medication, modification of her diet and a regular schedule of exercise. Tell her you love her and will help her if she would like. Then cross your fingers that she will listen and her boyfriend will stop being her enabler.

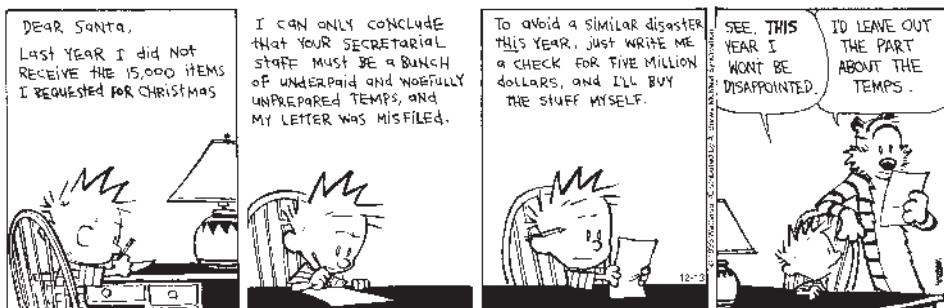
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To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



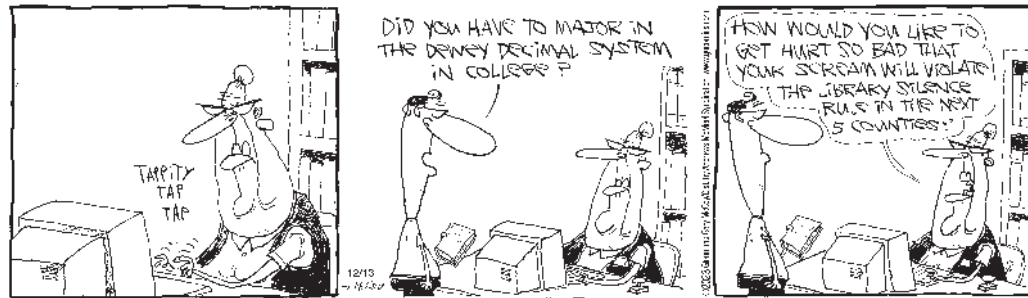
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cowardly Lion portrayer

5 Lob's path

8 Despot

12 Singer India—

13 Eastern path

14 "— in the Dark" (Meryl Streep film)

15 Overly sentimental stuff

17 Mother of Zeus

18 Bamboo unit

19 Naval clerk

21 Herbal brews

24 GI-entertaining gp.

25 Pedestal

28 Fuzzy image

30 Resistance unit

33 Alphabet starter

34 Mild cigar

35 Energy

DOWN

36 "Say what?"

37 Give temporarily

38 Bottom lines?

39 Writer

41 Ballet wear

43 Dutch exports

46 Daisy Mae's guy

50 Shakespeare little starter

51 "Winterreise" composer

54 Leg joint

55 Madre's sibling

56 Desire

57 Deserve

58 Popped down

59 Employer

DOWN

1 Colleen

2 Eyebrow shape

3 Old cracker brand

4 Channel changer

5 Part of NATO

6 Snitch

7 Warm and snug

8 Roots used in poi

9 Chat idly

10 Bailiwick

11 Former QB Fitzpatrick

16 Devoured

20 Continental coin

22 Skilled

23 Incline

25 "Hum-bug!"

26 — Dhabhi

27 "Ode to Joy" poet

29 Pakistani language

31 He/— (pronoun pairing)

32 AWOL

34 Applaud

38 Uproar

40 Resurrected

42 Greek cross

43 Seize

44 Radius neighbor

45 Bygone fleet

47 Infamous emperor

48 Joule fractions

49 GPS suggestions

52 Spy org.

53 Fez, e.g.

Solution time: 23 mins.

P	A	C	T	G	I	G	W	A	S	P
O	R	S	O	A	R	A	I	C	K	Y
S	K	I	M	A	S	K	S	L	A	I
A	H	O	T	C	O	P	O	N	L	I
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M	I	N	G	U	S	O	D	O	U	N
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Yesterday's answer 12-13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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15				16				17		
18						19	20			
		21		22	23		24			
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32
33			34					35		
36			37					38		
	39	40			41		42			
43	44			45		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Swift, 34; Jamie Foxx, 56; Steve Buscemi, 66; Wendie Malick, 73.

Happy Birthday: Stick to the basics, the truth and realistic expectations this year. If you exaggerate, it will complicate matters and make it difficult for you to keep up or come through with your promises. Pay attention to your health and well-being. Staying fit through exercise and healthy eating habits will help you stay strong. Time is on your side, and honesty will ward off trouble. Your numbers are 7, 10, 14, 27, 32, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't overthink if focusing on physically making a difference or taking care of business will bring the highest returns. An emotional situation is best left alone until you clearly understand the problem and the possible outcome. Bide your time. ☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't jump into something prematurely. Take your time, plan your actions and leave nothing to chance. Preparation will put your mind at ease and encourage the best results. Take advantage of any opportunity that enhances your love life, physical well-being and domestic symmetry. ☼☼☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Note what everyone else is doing and head in a direction that offers clear passage without outside interference. Your mission is to get things done and to bypass trivial matters that are a waste of time. Set your sights on completion, and don't look back. ☼☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Elaborate, and you'll attract attention and input that points you in the right direction. Your intuition will help you navigate an obstacle course leading to your goal. Partnering with someone who

shares your vision will hasten the process. ☼☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The race is on, and it's a great time to initiate your year-end preparations. Rethink your plans to match your budget and ability to get things done without wearing yourself out. Maintain balance and integrity, and peace of mind will follow. Don't fold under pressure. ☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Simplify your plans this year. Discuss capping how much you decide to spend on festivities, gifts and travel expenses. A change you implement should relieve loved ones instead of adding unnecessary stress. Look for practical alternatives that please everyone. Romance is on the rise. ☼☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sign up for a challenge that excites you. Reach out to friends and family you rarely see to catch up and send festive wishes. Don't make promises you can't keep; put budget restrictions in place to avoid overspending to please others. ☼☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Search for financial opportunities or changes you can implement to make your life more cost-efficient. Upgrades and budgeting for high-efficiency items for your home will make a difference. An intelligent living plan will set your mind at ease. Self-improvement projects will encourage better health. ☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't veer off track mentally, physically or emotionally. Keep your facts straight, your debt within reason and your plans doable. Expect pressure from outside interference, scams and sales pitches that offer unrealistic expectations. Focus on getting things done on time. ☼☼☼

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6	8		9				1
	1		3	6				
		3					7	5
		5		3		7		9
					8		5	6
			9					
3	8		7				1	
9	4			1	3			7
7		1		4		9		8

Difficulty: ★★★

12/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	7	5	3	4	6	2	8
8	6	5	7	9	2	1	3	4
2	4	3	1	8	6	9	7	5
7	3	9	2	1	5	8	4	6
6	8	4	3	7	9	5	1	2
5	2	1	4	6	8	3	9	7
4	5	8	9	2	3	7	6	1
9	1	6	8	4	7	2	5	3
3	7	2	6	5	1	4	8	9

Difficulty: ★★

12/12

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take advantage of opportunities that bring you closer to loved ones. Focus on festive events, sharing memories, attending family reunions or calling those who live too far away to visit. The information you gather today will give you a different perspective regarding future possibilities. ☼☼☼

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen, observe and size up situations before you agree to anything that may jeopardize your health, wealth or meaningful relationships. Understand the ramifications your words have before you engage in something that can easily get blown out of proportion. ☼☼☼

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on what you can accomplish instead of trying to achieve the impossible. Using experience and wisdom, you must manufacture the outcome you want to achieve. A financial gain is possible if you change how you handle your investments or earn your living. ☼☼☼☼

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, sympathetic and vibrant. You are entertaining and charitable.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

Wonderword®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ETHICAL HACKERS

Solution: 10 letters

K R O W T E N U M B E R S C T
E N G I N E E R E V R E S Y E
Y V I R U S T N E V E R P B X
B N A H A R D W A R E E R E T
O O S L L I K S E D V E S R A
A I T E U C L S O L A E E C I
R T T H N A O H O C N L C P D
D I E O O U T S H S O E U R E
R N R G R E M E I G S G R O M
O G C C M E D T I S T A I T L
W O E L L O I N O S G L T O A
S C S B C V T S E V N I Y C I
S E O P E R A T E D I T Y O C
A R L I A M E G A U G N A L O
P R O F E S S I O N A L A W S

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12/13

Access, Breach, Code, Cyber, Edit, Email, Engineer, Evaluate, Goal, Hardware, Invest, Keyboard, Language, Laws, Legal, Login, Method, Network, Numbers, Operate, Password, Prevent, Problem, Solve, Professional, Protocol, Recognition, Resource, Secret, Security, Sensitive, Server, Skills, Social Media, Test, Text, Virus

Yesterday's Answer: Snow

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Pacers rebound from I-ST final loss, send Pistons to 20th straight defeat



DETROIT (AP)—Benedict Mathurin scored 30 points and the Indiana Pacers handed the Detroit Pistons their 20th straight loss, winning 131-123 on Monday night.

Tyrese Haliburton had 14 points and 16 assists for Indiana in its first game since Saturday's 123-109 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA In-Season Tournament final.

"This is one of the most difficult games you can have, coming off the emotions of last week, the game on Saturday, the travel and everything else," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "I just thought our guys did a great job of staying together, keeping their composure and their aggression."

"Detroit is in an all-out attack mode because of their situation."

Detroit's losing streak is the longest single-season slide in franchise history and matches the NBA's longest since the Houston Rockets lost 20 straight in 2020-21. Detroit lost 21 straight between the end of the 1979-80 season and the start of 1980-81.

"As much as this losing hurts us, and it hurts like you can't believe, I see a lot of growth," Pistons coach Monty Williams said. "I'm encouraged by some of the things we saw tonight. We just need to build on them."

The Philadelphia 76ers hold both NBA records, setting the single-season mark at 26 in a row in 2013-14 and the overall mark at 28 at the end of 2015-16 and start of 2016-17.

Miles Turner added 23 points for Indiana.

"This was fun, especially coming off a loss in the tournament," said Mathurin, who added a career-high eight assists. "I don't think it is about points for me. It's about how I impact the game."

Cade Cunningham scored 23 points and Ausar Thompson had 20 for the Pistons, who have dropped 44 of their last 48 games dating to last season's trade deadline.

Indiana led 98-93 at the start of the fourth quarter, and both teams were able to successfully get to the basket early in the period. Aaron Nesmith hit the only 3-pointer of the first six minutes, helping the Pacers move the margin to 115-108 with six minutes left.

Turner's three-point play made it a 10-point game and six straight points from Haliburton made it 129-114 with 3:31 to go.

The Pistons missed their four 3-point attempts in the quarter and didn't get an offensive rebound.

"Like most professional sports, NBA basketball comes down to possession of the ball," Carlisle said. "We were able to secure it when we needed to down the stretch."



Indiana Pacers forward Obi Toppin (1) is defended by Detroit Pistons guard Cade Cunningham (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, in Detroit.

Mathurin scored 18 points in the first half, including five in a 9-0 run to close the half. The Pacers shot 58.3% to Detroit's 53.7%.

"I thought the way we closed to halftime was something that kind of took the wind out of our sails a little bit," Williams said. "We're still learning that everything we do in the meat of the game has an effect on the end."

ROCKETS 93, SPURS 82

HOUSTON (AP)—Tari Eason had a season-high 18 points and 14 rebounds off the bench as Houston dealt San Antonio its franchise-record 17th consecutive loss.

Top overall pick Victor Wembanyama had 15 points, 18 rebounds and five blocks, along with an overpowering dunk over Houston's Alperen Sengun in the third period, but it wasn't enough to get the Spurs back in the win column.

San Antonio hasn't won since a 132-121 victory over Phoenix on Nov. 2.

The Rockets won their 10th straight home game and third in a row overall.

Fred VanVleet added 16 points and Sengun had 15 for the Rockets.

San Antonio shot 5 of 41 (12%) from 3-point distance. Keldon Johnson missed all nine of his long-distance shots and Devin Vassell went 1 for 9.

76ERS 146, WIZARDS 101

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Tyrese Maxey made three 3-pointers in a game-opening 14-0 run that helped Philadelphia to a 29-point lead at halftime and Joel Embiid had 34 points and 10 rebounds in lopsided win over Washington.

The hapless Wizards (3-19) had seen this before. The 76ers led 75-46 at halftime Monday night, the second time this season they scored 75 points by the

break. The other came on Nov. 6 against the Wizards.

Maxey made five 3s and scored 24 points. Kyle Kuzma led Washington with 21 points.

HEAT 116, HORNETS 114

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Duncan Robinson had five 3-pointers and scored 24 points, Kevin Love provided a big boost off the bench with a season-high 19 points and Miami overcame a huge game from Charlotte's Terry Rozier for the win.

Jimmy Butler added 23 points and eight assists and Caleb Martin had 20 points and nine rebounds for Miami, which entered the game having lost five of its last seven. Jaime Jaquez chipped in with 18 points before fouling out late.

Rozier scored 34 points with eight 3-pointers for the Hornets, but his halfcourt heave at the final buzzer hit the backboard and bounced away.

BUCKS 133, BULLS 129, OT

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 12 rebounds to lead Milwaukee past Chicago in overtime.

Brook Lopez and Malik Beasley each had 19 points and Bobby Portis scored 17 for the Bucks.

DeMar DeRozan had 41 points and Coby White scored 33 for Chicago, which had won four straight.

Torrey Craig hit the second of two free throws to put Chicago up 119-118 to open overtime, but the Bucks answered with seven straight points, capped by Antetokounmpo's layup to make it 126-119 with two minutes remaining.

Milwaukee left the door open by missing three of six free throws. DeRozan scored on a dunk to pull Chicago within 131-129 with 12 seconds left. Damian Lillard hit two free

throws with 10.2 seconds remaining to make it 133-129.

MAGIC 104, CAVALIERS 94

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Paolo Banchero scored 20 points and Franz Wagner added 19 for Orlando as Cleveland failed to recover from a dismal third quarter.

Darius Garland scored 36 points for the Cavaliers, who made only two of 17 shots in the third and scored 15 points. Donovan Mitchell added 22 points for the Cavaliers, who had won four straight on the road.

Goga Bitadze had 15 points for the Magic, who have won 11 of 13 with one of the losses coming at Cleveland last Wednesday, when they shot 2-for-23 from 3-point range. They shot 7-for-26 Monday night.

Cleveland 7-footer Evan Mobley missed a second straight game due to a sore left knee.

KNICKS 136, RAPTORS 130

NEW YORK (AP)—Julius Randle scored 34 points, Quentin Grimes had a season-high 19 and New York shook off some bad injury news to beat Toronto.

RJ Barrett added 27 points and Jalen Brunson had 21 points and nine assists for the Knicks, who had a new starting center for the first time this season after Mitchell Robinson sustained a stress fracture in his left ankle. The injury will require surgery for the NBA leader in offensive rebounds and a recovery of at least two months.

OG Anunoby scored a season-high 29 points for the Raptors, who dropped their fourth straight, two of them against New York. Scottie Barnes, Pascal Siakam and Dennis Schroder had 20 apiece.

NUGGETS 129, HAWKS 122

ATLANTA (AP)—Jamal Murray scored 29 points, Niko-

la Jokic added 25 and Denver held off Atlanta to end a three-game skid.

Bogdan Bogdanovic set career highs with 40 points and 10 3-pointers in the Hawks' fourth consecutive loss.

Bogdanovic sank three 3s in the final two minutes but the defending NBA champion Nuggets, who had a 20-point lead early in the fourth quarter, held off Atlanta's comeback.

Rookie Julian Strawther scored a career-high 22 points while making six 3-pointers for Denver. Aaron Gordon had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

The Hawks' Trae Young scored 19 points before he was ejected when he picked up two technical fouls with 25 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Young was upset no foul was called when Peyton Watson reached in on Young's drive.

PELICANS 121, TIMBERWOLVES 107

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Zion Williamson scored a season-high 36 points, CJ McCollum added nine of his 23 points in the fourth quarter on three timely 3-pointers, and New Orleans beat NBA-leading Minnesota.

The game was a character test for the Pelicans, coming off their 133-89 drubbing at the hands of the Los Angeles Lakers in the semifinals of the NBA In-Season Tournament.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 17 points and 12 rebounds, but he fouled out with 2:35 left and his team trailing by 14. Mike Conley and Naz Reid each scored 17 points for Minnesota, which had won nine of its previous 10 games. The Wolves played without leading scorer Anthony Edwards, who left Friday night's win at Memphis with a right hip pointer.

Brandon Ingram scored 20 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 14 points and 13 rebounds

for New Orleans, which won for the first time in three games against Minnesota this season.

MAVERICKS 120, GRIZZLIES 113

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 35 points, Dereck Lively II added 16 points and 16 rebounds, and Dallas beat Memphis to extend its winning streak to three games.

Jaden Hardy scored 19 points off the Dallas bench and Dante Exum had 16 points for the Mavericks.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored a season-high 41 points and Desmond Bane added 28 for Memphis. Vince Williams Jr. finished with 10 points, the only other Memphis player to score in double figures.

Dallas built a 21-point lead early in the fourth quarter. The Mavericks played without Kyrie Irving, who missed his first game since a right heel contusion suffered in Friday's win over Portland. Tim Hardaway was a late scratch because of back spasms and Derrick Jones Jr. left the game in the first quarter with a left quad contusion.

THUNDER 134, JAZZ 120

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points in three quarters and Oklahoma City defeated Utah.

Ousmane Dieng had a season-high 18 points on 6-for-7 shooting off the bench. Josh Gidley added 12 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists in 24 minutes, and Chet Holmgren had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Thunder, who have won four of five.

Keyonte George, a rookie from Baylor, scored a season-best 30 points for the Jazz. Collin Sexton had 20 and Simone Fontecchio added a season-high 19. Jordan Clarkson, Utah's No. 2 scorer this season, had just eight points on 3-for-13 shooting.

KINGS 131, NETS 118

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—DeAaron Fox had 28 points and nine assists, and Sacramento set a franchise record for 3-pointers with 25 in a victory over Brooklyn.

Domantas Sabonis added 15 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists for the Kings, who have won three straight against the Nets, including a season sweep last year. Keegan Murray scored 24 and Malik Monk had 21 points and nine assists.

Sacramento shot 25 of 45 from 3-point range (55.6%), breaking the previous Kings record of 23.

Mikal Bridges led the Nets with 22 points, five assists and five rebounds. Brooklyn was one of the hottest teams in the East going into the night with six wins in its previous seven games.

Will Levis rallies Titans for 2 late TDs, 28-27 win over Dolphins



**M I A M I
GARDENS,
Fla.** (AP)—
Will Levis
knew he
couldn't get

too caught up on his mistake. The Tennessee Titans' rookie made a bad pitch to running back Derrick Henry in the fourth quarter against the Miami Dolphins, resulting in a fumble that eventually allowed Miami to take a 14-point lead.

But Levis put the play behind him and directed two touchdown drives in the final 4 1/2 minutes, and Tennessee rallied to stun Miami 28-27 on Monday night, knocking the Dolphins out of the top spot in the AFC.

"That was a nightmare," Levis said of the turnover. "No one wanted to look at me. No one wanted to talk to me. I didn't want to talk to anybody after that. I just wanted to move on—be ready to attack that next two-minute drive that I knew we'd be able to get."

The Titans (5-8) held Tua Tagovailoa and Miami's explosive offense in check for most of the game but still fell behind by two touchdowns in the fourth thanks to critical mistakes that gave short fields to the Dolphins (9-4). Raheem Mostert ran for TDs of 3 yards and 5 yards to put Miami ahead 27-13.

Levis, a second-round draft pick making his sixth career start, led a nine-play, 75-yard drive that took 1:54, capping it with a 3-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Hopkins and a 2-point conversion throw to Nick Westbrook-Ikhine.

The Titans got a stop and Levis hit Hopkins for 28 yards and Chigoziem Okonkwo for 16 yards to get into scoring position. Derrick Henry scored on a 3-yard rush and the extra point gave the Titans a one-point lead.

Levis ripped off his helmet, screamed for joy and embraced coach Mike Vra-



Tennessee Titans quarterback Will Levis (8) aims a pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, in Miami, Fla.

bel on the sideline.

The Dolphins took over with no timeouts left and got to their own 45, but Harold Landry III sacked Tagovailoa to put the game away. Miami lost at home for the first time this season, and its three-game winning streak was snapped. Baltimore now has a one-game lead for the best record in the conference.

It was the first win by a team down 14 with under three minutes left since 2016.

"Everybody thought this was going to be another Miami-Broncos 70 points put on us," said Titans linebacker Arden Key. "But we don't care about the outside noise."

Miami played much the game without star receiver Tyreek Hill, who sat out the second quarter and majority of the third after injuring his ankle in the first quarter. He returned

and caught passes of 23 and 25 yards to set up Jason Sanders' 31-yard field goal that tied it at 13 at the beginning of the fourth. Hill, who leads the NFL in receiving yards, was in and out of the game from there and finished with 61 yards.

Tagovailoa was 23 of 33 for 240 yards and had his streak of 21 consecutive games with a touchdown pass snapped.

Levis went 23 of 38 with a touchdown pass and an interception. Hopkins had seven catches for 124 yards, and Henry ran for two scores.

A grind-it-out game took a wild turn in the fourth quarter, beginning when Tennessee's Eric Garror tried to field a bouncing punt with the game tied at 13-all with 6:16 remaining. The ball caromed off his hands and Elijah Campbell recovered for

the Dolphins at the 7.

Mostert punched it in, then scored again after the Titans fumbled on their next possession on a botched pitch by Levis to Henry. Mostert leads the NFL with 16 touchdowns rushing.

Henry, who finished with 34 yards, moved to 15th in NFL history in rushing yards when he scored his 87th career rushing TD in the first quarter that tied the game at 7 going into the half.

Miami's top-ranked offense was held scoreless in the first half against a Titans defense that has given up the fewest red zone touchdowns in the NFL. The Dolphins were 2 of 5 in the red zone and lost a fumble at the Titans 2 on a bad quarterback-center exchange on their first possession.

"I think there's a lot of people that are going to be — it's

going to be tough to go to sleep tonight, including myself," Miami coach Mike McDaniels said. "That's not something that you can do and expect to win football games. It's a hard, hard lesson, but no lead is safe. I think that's one of the tougher parts about it."

Miami went ahead 7-0 when defensive tackle Zach Sieler intercepted Levis at the 5 and took it to the end zone. The Dolphins have had a pick-6 in three straight games for the first time in franchise history.

Tagovailoa faced more pressure than usual with the Dolphins missing three starters on their offensive line. Left tackle Terron Armstead (knee/ankle) and right guard Rob Hunt (hamstring) did not play, and center Connor Williams injured his knee in the first quarter.

Sanders converted a 20-yard field goal that tied the score at 10-all in the third quarter. He also had a 44-yard field goal blocked by Denico Autry.

GIANTS 24, DOLPHINS 22

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New York Giants had the ball late in the game, with a chance to rally for an improbable win.

That's when Tommy DeVito delivered—again.

DeVito threw a 32-yard pass to Wan'Dale Robinson to set up Randy Bullock's 37-yard field goal as time expired, and the Giants beat Green Bay 24-22 on Monday night to hand the Packers their first December loss since Matt LaFleur took over as coach in 2019.

The 25-year-old DeVito added another moment to his unlikely rookie season as an

undrafted free agent. Making his fourth straight start because of injuries to Daniel Jones and Tyrod Taylor, the New Jersey native directed New York to its third consecutive win.

The Giants (5-8) went 57 yards in eight plays after Jordan Love threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Malik Heath with 1:33 to play. Green Bay then tried a 2-point conversion but Jayden Reed was stopped by linebacker Bobby Okereke. The go-ahead TD was set up by a Saquon Barkley fumble.

DeVito rushed for 71 yards and threw an 8-yard TD pass to Isaiah Hodgins while leading four scoring drives, two of them capped by Barkley runs of 5 and 1 yards. The Giants defense forced three turnovers.

It was DeVito's first fourth-quarter comeback.

"I know it's probably not easy for him being that he's from around here," Giants coach Brian Daboll said. "I kind of know how that goes. So there's a lot on your plate and you got to keep the main thing, the main thing which is football. He had four games. I'm proud of him. He's put a lot of work in since really since he got here."

Reed scored on a 16-yard run and Anders Carlson kicked field goals of 36, 32 and 48 yards for the Packers (6-7), who had won three in a row. Green Bay dropped to 16-1 in December under LaFleur.

"It's definitely disappointing," said Love, who finished 25 of 39 for 218 yards. "Just look at what we got in front of us but we have to take it one week at a time. We had plenty of opportunities to win that game. We didn't execute good enough. It's disappointing for sure."

The Packers led 10-7 at halftime on Carlson's 36-yarder with 13 seconds left. The drive was kept alive by a 27-yard pass interference against Cor'Dale Flott.

The Giants went in front on Barkley's 1-yard TD early in the third quarter after New York recovered a Keisean Nixon fumble on a punt return. DeVito had a 26-yard run before Barkley scored.

After Carlson responded with a 32-yard FG, DeVito capped a 75-yard drive with his pass to Hodgins for a 21-13 lead. Robinson also caught a flea-flicker on the drive.

Green Bay and New York scored touchdowns on consecutive series early in the game.

Wide receiver Reed scored on a 16-yard sweep late in the first quarter. It came one play after Love hit running back AJ Dillon on a 35-yard pass play.

Barkley's 5-yard scoring run came one play after the running back took a direct snap and handed off to Robinson for a 32-yard run.

Purdy's performance for the 49ers keeps silencing skeptics

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—The notion that Brock Purdy is simply a creation of coach Kyle Shanahan's schemes and the best set of playmakers in the NFL gets put to rest the way he plays each week.

Purdy delivered another stellar performance on Sunday to put San Francisco at the top of the NFC standings, throwing for a career-high 368 yards and two touchdowns to lead the 49ers to a 28-16 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

Purdy leads the NFL in passer rating (116.9), yards per attempt (9.9) and completion rate (70.2%) and is on pace for one of the most efficient seasons ever for an NFL

quarterback a little more than a year after being the last pick in the NFL draft.

His teammates think it's time he gets a bigger share of the credit instead of it all going to Shanahan, Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel and Co.

"I think a lot of people are slow to give him his props just because of his draft status and where he was drafted," left tackle Trent Williams said.

"If he was Zach Wilson, I think he'd probably be unanimous MVP, the next coming of Aaron Rodgers or somebody like that. But since he's a 'Mr. Irrelevant' pick, and this is what, almost two years of him putting just unbelievable quarterback play on film and it's

still guys saying, 'Hey, I think it's Deebo. I think it's Trent.' Yeah, that's not realistic."

While Purdy may not be the unanimous MVP choice, he is one of the favorites with the second-best odds to Dallas' Dak Prescott to win the award, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

He also has the Niners (10-3) on their second five-game winning streak of the season in position to claim the top seed in the NFC and a first-round bye if they win their final four games. San Francisco clinched a playoff spot on Monday night when Green Bay lost 24-22 to the New York Giants.

He picked apart Seattle on Sunday with his seventh straight game completing at least 70%

of his passes — one shy of Joe Montana's NFL record.

And he didn't just do it with checkdowns and dump-offs, completing all three of his deep throws, including a 54-yard TD pass to Samuel as he becomes more and more comfortable going downfield.

"I feel like we've always sort of had shots within plays," he said. "If the defense gives us a look, we take it. Was I afraid to go deep or anything like that last year? I don't think so. This year I feel just more aware of what our offense is and where guys are supposed to be and if a defense gives us a look I'm more ready for it and aware of it. So, I have taken deep shots this year."

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR



SaeHee Kim won the CNMI Women's Golf Association monthly tournament last Dec. 9 at the Coral Ocean Resort.

The former resident of Tinian fired a net score of 72, built around a gross score of 82 (41-41), to beat five other CWGA members for the monthly plum.

The 10-handicapper, who is a graduate of Tinian Elementary School and Tinian

SaeHee Kim conquers December tourney

Junior/Senior High School, said Saturday's weather was nice but very windy.

"The course was beautiful with a lot of players playing golf and lots of waiting," she said.

Kim said other than a hiccup on hole No. 4, it was smooth sailing overall during the December tourney.

"I had trouble in the bunker shot on hole No. 4 and ended up with triple bogey, but all my other shots were okay. I dedicate my win to my family and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SaeHee Kim joins other CNMI Women's Golf Association members in this group photo during their monthly tournament last Dec. 9 at the Coral Ocean Resort.



Kim

our friendly CWGA ladies," said the mother of five. Yuko Togawa finished second to Kim with her net 73 (gross of 83, 40-43), while Lorraine Babauta cracked the Top 3 with her net 78 (94 gross, 48-46).

The rest of the field, with their scores in the paren-

thesis, are as follows: Jang EunAe (78), Dol Yamagishi (81), and Kim Lou (83).

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

SANTOS

From page 20

in [the] awards banquet too! Thanks [to] all the sponsors."

The age division awardees for the 5K in the 12U boys age group went to Quido Jambor at 23:13; Gabriel Walsh at 28:08; and Brayden Brennfleck with a time of 32:02.

In the 12U girls division, Top 3 were Kaylen Taflinger who clocked in at 26:11; Leilani Ruzsala at 29:57; and Olivia Walsh with 34:17.

The 14U boys Top 3 went to Simon Roy Romero at 25:59; Kazuki Kamegai with 26:56; and Victor Neil Santos with a time of 27:24. The girls Top 3 were Aubrey White who came in at 32:12; Lina Tsukagoshi with a time of 36:42; and Alana Hayes at 38:53.

The 18U boys Top 3 were Christian Newman at 25:26; Ian Song with a time of 25:46; and Jhaylin Cruz at

27:01. The girls Top 3 were Jian Chun with a time of 29:09; Wang Hoo at 36:29; and Mimi Culp with 37:34.

Jody O'Sullivan topped the 35-39 men's age group with a time of 29:16; second was Kevin Ada at 39:39. The women's Top 3 were Grace Simitara at 32:26; Bridget Basa at 39:39; and Kimberly White at 35:00.

The 40-44 men's age group Top 3 were Rodelo Lagunay at 32:27; Ryan Reyes at 35:23; and Jacoby Winkfield at 40:48. The women's Top 3 were Shawna Brennfleck at 25:52; Pamela Walsh at 34:00; and Rona Reyes with a time of 38:24.

The men's 45-49 winners were Sanghyn Chun at 25:32; Vince Tudela with a time of 30:09; and Noel Altimirano with 30:28. Miyuki Ishihara was first in the women's division at 31:00; Xinmei Yarbrough was second with a time of 31:33; and Elizabeth



LEIGH GASES

The women's overall Top 3 winners of the 2023 AK 5K Fun Run from second left, first place Noriko Jim, third place Shawna Brennfleck, and second place Addalee Taflinger, pose with Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., far right, and Dr. Ron Snyder, far left, during the Run Saipan banquet last Saturday.

Culp was third at 37:34.

The 50-54 men's age group was won by solo runner Ronaldo Quindoza at 41:35. The women's Top 3 included Leonora Abuy at 40:11; Elizabeth Church with a time of 43:25; and Demaree Michelau at 44:44.

Nick Muna topped the 55-59 men's age group with a time of 40:37; second was Kraig Church at 43:25; and Andrew

Estepa was third at 44:44. The women's Top 3 were Imee Altimirano at 39:33; Len Bernardo with 45:21; and Esther Muna at 1:01:11.

The 60+ men's age group was dominated by Steven Pixley at 27:04; and Moises Santos with 59:12. Marie Sablan topped the women's age group at 35:35; Meribeth Babauta was second at 39:54; and third was Emma Santos at 42:55.

WOMEN'S

From page 20

opponent, Koo started with Hong Kong and said they should have scored more goals as they had a lot of chances against the keeper, but beating Macau was easy as their level of play was much higher.

As for Mongolia, he said they had a goal to get a good result against them, and they achieved it. "DPR [North Korea] is on a different level and we need to have more experience to handle them," said Koo.

Koo added that the team's two wins in the tournament was "a huge achievement for

the women's team as we have a very small pool of players and I believe the team will improve with good programs. The experience and results in this EAFF was vital for women soccer in NMI. Year-round programs with good coaching and playing more high level games is the key to improvement."

Along with Casarino, Chavez, and Ngewakl, the national team included Katrina Costales, Mia Abuan, Christina Atalig, Julie Chavez, Bernadette Horey, Khristelle Itaas, Tamia Kileleman-Hix, Tyana Kileleman-Hix, Summer Manahane, Kelsey McClellan, Deseha Mendiola, Dianne Pab-



EAFF

NMI's Pia Ngewakl scored two goals in their 4-0 win against Macau in the Women's EAFF E-1 Football Championships Preliminary Competition in Zhuhai, China last Dec. 6.

lo, Sophia Quintos, Gabrielle Race, Guinevere Borja, Britany Wally, and Rizza Relucio.

They were joined by head coach Koo, assistant coach

Kwok Kei Poon, manager Mikky Vargas, assistant manager Yu Hung Lee, assistant coach Mae Ito, and physiotherapist Pamela Carhill.

KANOA

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done as Gil completed the hat-trick in the 37th minute and Aldric Antonio scored the last goal in the 49th minute, for a six-point deficit win.

The Kanoa girls handed Kanoa FC its third championship of the season as they just managed to slip past SUFC by one goal.

Tied at two apiece in the 38th minute, Kanoa scored the tie-breaking goal a minute later to

bag the championship.

The Golden Boot award—given to those who made the most goals of the season—went to Kanoa's U12 boys striker, Izaiah Tenorio at 17 goals.

The U14 girls Golden Boot awardee was SUFC's Rosie Saralu with 31 goals; and the U14 boys Golden Boot winner was Latte FC's Emerson Brillo with 33 goals.

Results of the U17 boys and girls championships will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



EAFF

Kanoa Football Club's U12 boys team poses with their championship trophy after their TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2023 finals against Paire FC last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kobleville.



EAFF

Kanoa Football Club's U14 boys team poses with their championship trophy after their TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2023 finals against MP United 2 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kobleville.

Concepcion thanks 2023 HOM participants for going 'extra mile'

By **MARK RABAGO**
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EDITOR

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion gave kudos to all the participants of the recent 2023 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle.

"Honestly, I'm not sure how you have managed to walk in here today after a course like that. We non-cyclists salute you!" he said in a speech during the 2023 HOM awards ceremony held a few hours after the 100- and 50-kilometer cycling event last Dec. 2 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Concepcion also gave a special warm Marianas welcome to off-island bikers from South Korea, Japan, Guam, Russia, USA, and Tinian.

"We know you have each gone the extra mile—no pun intended—to get here this weekend, and we thank you for that. Our goal is to grow the Hell of the Marianas reputation as one of the best races in the Pacific. We value your feedback and partnership in that effort."

The CNMI tourism body chief also took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to the 2023 HOM sponsors, who made possible the staging of the successful event after a couple of years of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A total of 157 cyclists signed on for the challenge, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our many sponsors and supporters who have all made today's race possible, starting



MAKOTO AYANO

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion delivers his welcome speech during the 2023 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle awards banquet last Dec. 2 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

with Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation for taking the lead on the logistics of the event. Thank you, president Vince [Seman] and team, for a job well done," he said.

The 2023 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle include the following sponsors—TanHoldings Corp., Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Seman Law Offices, IT&E, TurnKey Solutions, Triple J Group of Companies, Pacific Trading Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Bike Shop Saipan, Marpac, Herman's Modern Bakery, Parks & Recreation, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan, House vice speaker Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), and all other government partners.

"Again, congratulations and if you had a good time here on Saipan, please let your friends know, and we hope to see you all again here in paradise in 2024," he said in a parting message during the awards banquet.



Pacers rebound from I-ST final loss, send Pistons to 20th straight defeat.

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SaeHee Kim conquers December tourney.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Santos, Jim fastest in AK 5K Fun Run

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

A veteran runner and a student-athlete were the fastest in their respective divisions of the 2023 AK 5K Fun Run on a gloomy Saturday morning.

The male division was youth-led as Mount Carmel School sophomore Victor Nash Santos came in first overall with a time of 21:05; second place was another young runner Takeru Jim a few seconds later at 21:12; and third place was high school senior Rex Pixley at 22:19.

For the female division, Noriko Jim claimed first place at 23:19; second was Addalee Taflinger who clocked in at 23:33; and third was Shawna Brennfleck with a time of 25:52.

The course from Hyatt Regency to the U.S. Army Reserve Center and back was clogged

up with 135 other 5K runners, along with half marathon runners who ran to Marpi and back.



Santos outran everyone once again after he recently won the Turkey Trot up Mt. Tapochao last month. He said after winning the 5K, "It felt really good. I was just happy I got the race over with. I've been busy with school these past few weeks and it's been super stressful. My time wasn't super great either but I still had a lot of fun and it's nice to be out there running in a race again."

As for the course, he said it was alright and not that exciting. "It was the same all throughout



LEIGH GASES

Noriko Jim holds up the No. 1 sign as she was the fastest in the women's category of the 2023 AK 5K Fun Run with the course from the Hyatt Regency Saipan to the U.S. Army Reserve Center and back last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES

The men's overall Top 3 winners of the 2023 AK 5K Fun Run from second right, first place Victor Nash Santos, second place Takeru Jim, and third place Rex Pixley pose with Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., far right, and Dr. Ron Snyder, far left, during the Run Saipan banquet last Saturday.

and there wasn't really a great view to look at. It was also raining and the course was wet. During the race, my shoelace was untied and I was super scared I was going to fall and my shoes were soaked, too," he said.

Despite not prioritizing running because of school, plus an untied shoelace, and rain-soaked shoes during the race, Santos told himself, "Whatever happens, happens" and tried not to set super high expectations for himself, but still came out on top.

For Noriko Jim, she said the race was "fun." She said all ages ran together and got to run with her son, Takeru, who came in second overall.

She added, "I'm so happy to see that the run[ning] community is growing in Saipan! Thanks for [the] hard working Run Saipan and volunteers. There [were] lots of great prizes

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Later, Casarino took it home when she scored the tie-breaking goal in extra time for their first win and the upset at the start of the tourney.

They started and ended their tourney with a win as they bagged their second win in their last game against Macau.

Casarino was goal-hungry once again and scored the first goal in the game. Pia Ngewakl added two more goals in the second half to make it 3-0, then Casarino capped it off with a final goal in the 80th minute.

Macau was silenced as they couldn't get past NMI's defenders and goalie and NMI went home with a 2-2 record.

Head coach Luam Khen Koo said the women's national team has improved over the years of consistent training.

For their match against each

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Women's nat'l soccer team goes 2-2 in China

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The NMI Women's National Soccer Team 2-2 in the Women's EAFF E-1 Football Championships Preliminary Competition in Zhuhai, China.

They debuted in the tourney with a 4-3 upset against Mongolia last Nov. 30; fell to Hong Kong, 1-6, last Dec. 2; lost to North Korea, 0-17 last Dec. 4; and capped the tourney with a 4-0 win against Macau last Dec. 6.

High school standouts Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez and Jannah Casarino led the team to victory with back-to-back



EAFF

The NMI Women's National Soccer Team celebrates after they won, 4-3, against Mongolia in their debut in the Women's EAFF E-1 Football Championships Preliminary Competition in Zhuhai, China last Nov. 30.

goals against Mongolia. NMI drew first blood in the 23rd minute from Chavez's goal, but Mongolia's Batjargal Enkhzul equalized it in the 35th minute.

Casarino then found an opening to take back the lead five minutes later, only for

Mongolia's Orogdol Tsasan-Okhin to tie it up once more in the 60th minute. Chavez then put NMI up again in the 69th minute and held that lead for just two minutes as Mongolia's Bayarsaikhan Namuun made it 3-3.

Kanoa FC teams finish strong with 3 titles

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club finished strong as they won three championships in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2023 finals at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.



Kanoa won the U12 boys division over Paire FC, 4-0; the Kanoa U14 boys team triumphed against MP United 2, 7-1; and the Kanoa U14 girls team prevailed over Southern United FC, 3-2.

R.J. Manabat led the U12 team with two goals as Kanoa controlled the ball for most

of the game. The third goal came before the end of the first half and the last goal was made in the 40th minute with still no answer from Paire.

Kanoa's U14 team also overpowered their opponents as five of their goals were made early in the first half.

Two goals by Rooney Gil and

a goal each from Maximus Taitano, Akoni Matsumoto, and Jayson Tagabuel at the 14-minute mark ensured their easy win against MP United. The only MP United goal was made in the 10th minute by Kimason Cabrera.

Meanwhile, Kanoa wasn't

See KANOA on Page 19



NMIFA

Kanoa Football Club's U14 girls team poses with their championship trophy after their TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2023 finals against Southern United FC last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.